

STARS AND STRIPES®

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2005

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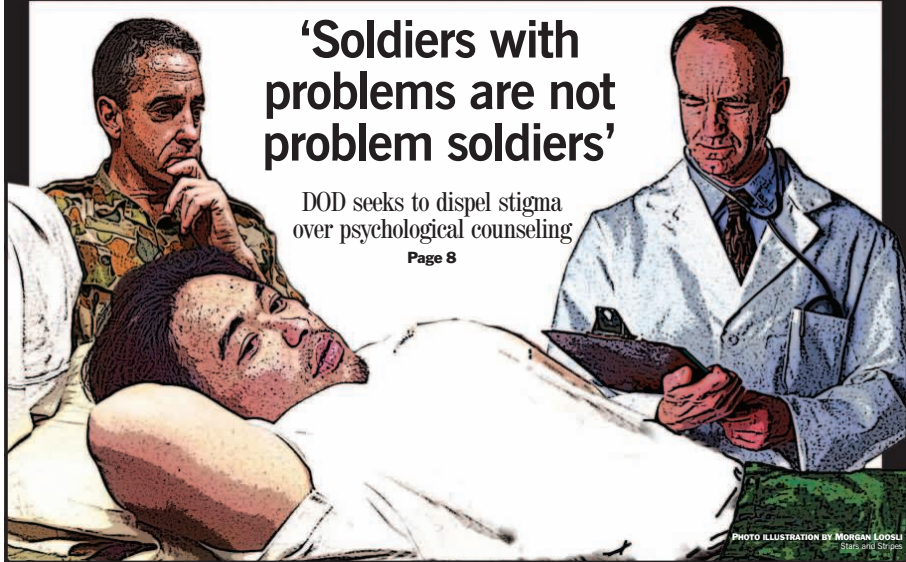


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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Fired deputies: A suburban Atlanta sheriff who ordered a mass firing on his first day on the job was found in contempt of court Thursday for not complying with a judge's order to restore 23 deputies to their posts.

Clayton County Sheriff Victor Hill has until noon on Feb. 10 to restore the deputies or face a possible fine of \$1,000 a day, Judge Ben Miller said.

The sheriff, who is black, has been at the center of a racially tinged furor in Jonesboro, Ga., since Jan. 3, when he fired the employees without warning and without saying why. The employees were mainly white men, several of them high-ranking officers.

BTK killer: A Wichita, Kan., television station says it has received a postcard that could be from the BTK serial killer, the third such communication found in about a week.

Besides a personal message for KAKE-TV, the TV station said the postcard contained a message for Wichita police, which it did not reveal at their request. The station said it had turned the postcard over to police. BTK — which stands for "Bind, Torture, Kill" — has been linked to eight unsolved killings from 1974 through 1986.

Kevorkian surgery: Assisted-suicide advocate Jack Kevorkian was released from prison in Detroit so he could undergo bilateral hernia surgery, his attorney said.

Kevorkian, 76, is serving a 10- to 25-year sentence for second-degree murder after being convicted of giving a fatal injection of drugs to a Lou Gehrig's disease patient in 1998.

Leo Lalonde, a Michigan Department of Corrections spokesman, said Thursday that Kevorkian would undergo the surgery at a hospital in Jackson, about 80 miles west of Detroit. Kevorkian is under constant guard in a secure wing separate from regular patients, Lalonde said.

Toxas infant killing: A woman accused of killing her 10-month-old baby by cutting off her arms also stabbed herself in the left shoulder, according to recently filed medical records.

The self-inflicted wound, which left a three-inch gash, is another indication that Dena Schlosser "was not in her right mind" during the Nov. 22 incident, said her attorney, David Haynes.

Police found Schlosser holding a knife in her Plano, Texas, living room while 10-month-old Margaret Schlosser lay in blood-soaked sheets in her crib.

World

Iran nuke inspection: Iran has agreed to give the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency a fresh look at a military complex linked by the United States to possible atomic arms research, diplomats said Friday.

The diplomats, who spoke to The Associated



Ukrainian prime minister: Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko kisses the hands of newly appointed Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko in the Ukrainian parliament Friday in Kiev. Ukraine's parliament on Friday approved Tymoshenko's nomination as prime minister, giving her the go-ahead to lead the ex-Soviet republic's new, Western-oriented government.

Press on condition of anonymity, said no date for the inspection of the Parchin complex had been set. But one of them suggested it could come before the planned Feb. 28 meeting of the board of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Sri Lanka tsunami relief: Some 400 survivors of Asia's devastating tsunami blocked a road Friday in Colombo, Sri Lanka, to protest corrupt aid distribution, and the government suspended two officials for mishandling relief and pledged to investigate 10 others on similar charges.

Despite millions of dollars in aid pouring into Sri Lanka since the Dec. 26 tsunami, 70 percent of survivors haven't received anything because of bureaucratic bungling and incompetence, Sri Lanka's relief operations' chief acknowledged this week.

Military

Halliburton payment: The Army said Thursday it will not withhold any of the payments due Halliburton in a contract providing services to U.S. troops in Iraq and elsewhere.

The Army flip-flopped several times last year on whether it would withhold 15 percent of the payments, which could have cost Vice President Dick Cheney's former company \$60 million a month.

Dan Carlson, spokesman for the Army Field Support Command in Rock Island, Ill., said the money never was withheld because the Army granted the company waivers pending the decision made Thursday.

Mass. bases: Massachusetts lawmakers on Thursday swiftly approved a bond authorization bill designed to help save Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford and the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick. Gov. Mitt Romney filed the bill Tuesday to allow the state to invest \$261 million to ex-

pand both facilities. The bonds are intended to create new jobs and persuade the Pentagon to spare the two facilities in the upcoming base closure process.

Business

Enron scandal: Disgraced energy giant Enron Corp. was running scans to drive up the cost of power years before the 2000-01 West Coast energy crisis, according to audio transcripts and documents unveiled by a public utility in Everett, Wash., 30 miles north of Seattle.

By November 1997, Enron apparently knew of loopholes in California's ill-advised deregulation plan, and by May 1998 — a month after the plan took effect — Enron already was falsifying transmission schedules to inflate prices, Snohomish County Public Utility District officials said Thursday as they unveiled new evidence at a news conference.

HealthSouth trial: Jurors at Richard Scrushy's fraud trial in Birmingham, Ala., watched video of the former HealthSouth CEO describing management's "incredible control" of the rehabilitation chain during a 1998 meeting.

In a DVD recording played Thursday, a fast-talking Scrushy also told of his own close watch over the company's finances and expenses.

Prosecutors say HealthSouth's books were awash that year in more than \$600 million worth of fraud ordered by Scrushy.

As testimony in his criminal trial continued, prosecutors announced that former HealthSouth president and director James P. Bennett had been indicted in the fraud, which prosecutors say overstated earnings by about \$2.7 billion from 1996 to 2002.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

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Correction

The answers to the Feb. 1 crossword puzzle were not run in the Feb. 2 editions. At left are the correct answers for the Feb. 1 crossword. Stars and Stripes regrets any inconvenience this caused.

Find Zits, Mutts,
For Better or For Worse
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U.S. to pull 15,000 troops out of Iraq

By BRADLEY GRAHAM

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Buoyed by successful Iraqi elections, Pentagon officials have decided to start reducing the level of U.S. forces in Iraq next month by about 15,000 troops, down to about 135,000, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said Thursday.

In early December, Pentagon officials announced which units would be held over in Iraq.

They included about 4,400 soldiers from the Army's 2nd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division, based in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii — which was supposed to return home in the beginning of January — and about 3,500 soldiers from the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas, which was supposed to return home in November.

About 2,300 Marines from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit off of the Essex Expeditionary Strike Group will also be held over, including Marines from Okinawa, Hawaii and California, who were due to return home in January and will now come out March 15, defense officials said.

A smaller unit of about 160 soldiers from the 66th Transport Company, based in Kaiserslautern, Germany, was also extended from January to mid-March.

In addition, about 1,500 paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Brigade were sent to Iraq from their home base at Fort Bragg, N.C., for a four-month stint.

Just when U.S. forces can begin to withdraw from Iraq has generated intense political debate that has accelerated since Sunday's elections. President Bush and other administration officials have said the pace of withdrawal will depend upon how quickly Iraqi forces can be trained and equipped to maintain security there.

As a sign this effort continues to lag, Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, reported at Thursday's hearing that less than one-third of the troops and police that the Pentagon says have been trained and equipped are adequately prepared to handle most threats.

Democratic senators pressed Thursday for the administration to outline a clear exit strategy. While Republicans on the committee appeared more willing to ac-

cept the administration's wait-and-see approach, several joined with Democrats in seeking more definite information about the number of Iraqi security forces currently ready and clearer estimates of the size of the insurgency. Both Wolfowitz and Myers appeared to struggle for answers.

The Pentagon officials displayed a chart showing a total of 136,065 Iraqi forces "trained" and "equipped" as of Monday, including 56,284 army troops and 57,290 police. Myers also reported a surge in recruits over the past two days of 2,500 a day.

But under questioning, Myers said only about 40,000 troops were deployable, meaning they "can go anywhere and do anything." He said he had more confidence about the Iraqi army figures than the police ones. Wolfowitz, in turn, acknowledged high absentee rates in many units, reaching about 40 percent in the Iraqi army.

Both officials cautioned against focus-

ing on numbers, saying capability is more important. But both conceded that the Pentagon still lacked clear ways of assessing such critical Iraqi capabilities as leadership and motivation.

"We're going to have to move to a way where we can start tracking the capability," Myers said. "This is not easy."

The general also fumbled for estimates on the size of the insurgency under questioning first by Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., the committee's ranking minority member.

Myers said that coming up "with accurate estimates is just very, very difficult in this type of insurgency," in which common criminals are mixed with foreign fighters, Islamic extremists and former members of Saddam Hussein's government.

This drew a sharp rebuke from two senior committee Republicans — Sen. John Warner, R-Va., the chairman, and Sen. J. Michael McCain, R-Ariz. — who said the public was due some estimate.

"I am disappointed that you don't have even a rough estimate of the number of insurgents," McCain said. "I don't know how you defeat an insurgency unless you have some handle on the number of people that you are facing."

Stripes reporter Lisa Burgess contributed to this report from the Pentagon.

Shiites with Iran ties lead Iraq vote count

Two soldiers killed in roadside attacks

By SAMEER N. YACOB

The Associated Press

BAHGDAD — A new, partial tally of votes Friday from Iraq's landmark elections showed a Shiite coalition whose leaders have close ties to Iran rolling up a strong lead over other tickers, including that of interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

The United Iraqi Alliance, which has the endorsement of Iraq's top Shiite clerics, won more than two-thirds of the 3.3 million votes counted so far, the election commission said. Allawi's ticket was running second with more than 579,700 votes.

In new violence, gunmen kidnapped an Italian journalist in a hail of gunfire from a central Baghdad street where she had been conducting interviews. Two U.S. soldiers were killed and eight wounded by roadside bombs in northern Iraq, and an Iraqi contractor working with the American military was gunned down in a drive-by shooting Friday west of the capital.

The new election figures represented partial returns from 10 of Iraq's 18 provinces. In Hamdiah al-Husseini, an election commission official. All 10 provinces have heavy Shiite populations, and the Alliance had been expected to run strong in those areas.

The Alliance also won the most out of the 265,000 votes cast by Iraqis abroad, with 36 percent, compared to 29 percent for the



A guard holds up religious papers amongst rubble Friday at the Tawhid Mosque in Baghdad, which was the target of an attack. Gunmen entered the Shiite mosque overnight, ordering a few guards to leave the building and then detonated explosives inside, blowing a hole in the mosque's wall.

main Kurdish coalition and nine percent for Allawi, according to a complete count by the International Organization for Migration.

No returns have been released from Iraq's mainly Sunni provinces. The Alliance's leader, Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, and others among its top candidates spent years of exile in Iran, helping build a movement against Saddam and building ties with the regime there. Though many clerics are on the ticket, its officials have said they don't seek to impose Islamic law in Iraq.

Insurgents are launching new attacks across the country and battling American and Iraqi security troops in scattered clashes following the easing of security measures that had been in place to guard last weekend's elections. At least 33 people have been killed in violence since Wednesday night.

In Baghdad, Giuliano Sgrena, a journalist for the Italian newspaper Il Manifesto, was kidnapped by gunmen who blocked her car near the Baghdad University compound, police said.

Sgrena is at least the second Italian journalist kidnapped in Iraq, and at least the ninth Italian citizen seized in Iraq in recent months. Freed Italian journalist Enzo Baldoni was abducted and killed in August.

One U.S. soldier was killed and another injured in after Thursday's attack on a Stryker combat vehicle, which rolled over several anti-tank mines. Another U.S. soldier died Friday when a roadside bomb hit a patrol near Beiji, 155 miles north of Baghdad. Seven soldiers were wounded, the U.S. military said.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday, at least 1,441 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,103 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is two higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Thursday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,303 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 994 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A Marine was killed Wednesday in Iraq's Anbar province.

■ A Marine was killed was killed Thursday in Babil province south of Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.

Saddam's heartland still up for grabs

BY TERRY BOYD

Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WILSON, Iraq — In the aftermath of the elections, there's still a jagged war going on in central Iraq.

But even before the elections, American soldiers already were refining tactics, relying more on the fine art of persuasion and less on crude force.

During their year here, 1st Infantry Division soldiers have achieved myriad small victories in this huge sector, stretching from Saddam's hometown of Tikrit north toward Mosul, and east nearly to the Iranian border.

Rocket and mortar attacks have decreased.

In the last few days, a farmer warned U.S. soldiers of a particularly lethal four-artillery-shell bomb on the road to Ad-Dawr.

"That would have killed somebody," said Master Sgt. Steven Zeibarth, noncommissioned officer in charge at Forward Operating Base Wilson, base for elements of the 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment.

"Our intelligence seems to have been getting better over the last three months," said 1st Lt. Ben Butler, who leads Troop C scouts. Iraqi army troops are starting to become a viable force, at least here.

Finally, elections are tangible proof of a drift toward democracy, Zeibarth said. "Until this point, everything has been U.S. government-driven."

But soldiers and officers here emphasize elections took place under special circumstances. Before election day, "we had absolutely everything out," said Capt. Paul Krattiger, commander of the Schweinfurt, Germany-based Troop C. Bradley fighting vehicles, Abrams tanks and Iraqi/American patrols hog-tied the enemy, Krattiger said.

It's an effort the United States can sustain for only so long.

Before 3rd Infantry Division soldiers from Fort Benning, Ga., replace them, Troop C soldiers still have raids to conduct, local leaders to cultivate and Iraqi police to build up or take down.

During the year they've been here, soldiers and officers have seen more and more Iraqis turning their back on the insurrection in 1-4 Cav's huge portion of the Sunni Triangle. But it's difficult for soldiers on the ground to appreciate the trend amid daily attacks.

On Monday, a roadside bomb exploded next to a Bradley as it patrolled in Ad-Dawr, just outside FOB Wilson, leaving Staff Sgt. Reginald Graham with a concussion. On Tuesday, somebody tossed a hand grenade at a patrol, slightly wounding Spc. Javier Aguilar.

His troops fight insurgents "nightly," Krattiger said.

During a Tuesday evening interview, Krattiger said he was getting the feeling "something's going to happen."

Before he could complete his thought, a deep explosion rocked the base.



PHOTOS BY TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

Iraqi elections may be over, but little has changed for 1st Infantry Division troops operating in central Iraq. Staff Sgt. Patrick Shrier from Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment gets ready to search houses in a tiny village north of Tikrit. Acting on a tip, the unit arrested an arms dealer nearby in January, but found nothing this week on a follow-up search.



An Iraqi man in the tiny village of Talal Sabot seems indifferent as a Staff Sgt. Kevin White searches the man's home for weapons. Acting on a tip, the unit arrested an arms dealer nearby in January.



An Iraqi woman appears tense as she waits for Pfc. Matthew Oberlok, background, and other 1st Infantry Division soldiers to finish searching her home in a tiny village north of Tikrit.

ers in Ad-Dawr missed their intended target, a Bradley, but managed to kill three civilians — a man, a wife and their friend.

He took photos of the bodies, shredded by a bomb built around a 155 mm artillery shell, Krattiger said.

Then he passed photos around nearby Ad-Dawr, the message being, "This is what happened when they attacked coalition forces, but killed innocent civilians," Krattiger said. "You allowed them to be in your midst. We were protected and it didn't do anything to us. But it killed three people."

"People cried. People knew them. The whole time I've been here, I've never seen such an extreme reaction."

Just after that attack, guerrillas started hitting Iraqi army positions in Al-Dawr. His troops countered with a midnight ambush, killing one and wounding three, Butler said.

Word spread around Ad-Dawr the next morning that the men were gunned down "while they were shopping," Butler said. So soldiers circulated photos of the dead man wearing an ammo belt. "We said, 'Look, you don't go shopping with an AK [assault weapon] and an ammo belt long after the stores are closed,'" Butler said.

Locals counted that outsiders are causing all the trouble. But all of the insurgents killed in the ambush were from Ad-Dawr, Butler said.

Perhaps 5 percent of the insurgents here are foreign financiers, 5 percent outside trainers, and 90 percent homegrown Saddam loyalists, according to Krattiger.

Days after the election, 1-4 Cav troops are still kicking in doors. But the majority of the day is spent supporting proven police units, Iraqi soldiers and the occasional Iraqi who says "enough" to insurgents.

On Tuesday, Butler led a Troop C mission north from FOB Wilson, covering perhaps 100 miles. The mission included everything from talking to Iraqi police in Al-Alam about moving concrete barriers left over from the elections, to doing "cordon knocks," or mini-raids, looking for weapons in Talal Sabot.

About noon, Butler's soldiers stop in Al-Alam to check on the Civil Education Center and its founder, Raed Khutab. A privately funded half-way house, the center tries to rehabilitate prisoners freed from Abu Ghraib and Bocce prisons.

Despite the elections, despite the emergence of people such as Raed Khutab, it's too simplistic to say things are getting better here, or getting worse, soldiers and officers agreed. Only changing.

"It's a brand new fight for all of us," Krattiger said. If it is an emerging trend, it may be that soldiers finally have ordinary Iraqis — even in this Sunni stronghold — asking themselves if the only thing to do is have to offer is more violence.

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Krattiger said.

But they can win only by convincing Iraqis that the better their relationship with American troops and the new government, the better off they'll be.

Kicking down doors is not the answer, he said. "Brute force is

not going to win this war."

Instead, American soldiers are searching for an antidote to brute force.

One of the most effective seems to be showing locals what the insurgency has wrought.

Last December, roadside bomb-



Worshippers hold Friday prayers on the street outside the al-Moushni mosque in Sadr City in Baghdad on Friday. For the time being, Baghdad is quieter than it has been, and the people of this once-vibrant capital have been trying to enjoy the relative calm.

Abu Ghraib guard says abuse was a mistake, begs jurors for leniency

By T.A. BADGER
The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — Sgt. Javal Davis said he hopes that admitting his abuse of Iraqi detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison can somehow save his Army career.

Davis pleaded with jurors Thursday to show him mercy, saying he made a mistake by indulging in a few minutes of poor judgment.

"I'm not a perfect soldier — I'm not G.I. Joe," Davis said.

"I don't want to see [my career] go down the drain for some foolishness."

He apologized to the jury of four officers and five senior enlisted men.

"I'm embarrassed and ashamed that I embarrassed the country and the Army that I love," he said. "I don't know what I was thinking that night. I should not have done that."

In a deal with prosecutors, Davis, 27, a reservist from Roselle, N.J., pleaded guilty earlier this week to battery, dereliction of duty and lying to Army investigators.

His sentencing hearing was expected to wrap up Friday.

Davis has confessed to stepping on the hands and feet of detainees and then falling with his full weight on them. Davis, who is about 6-feet-1 and weighs nearly 220 pounds, has blamed his crimes on job-related stress.

He faces a maximum 6½ years in prison, but defense lawyer

Paul Bergin has said the plea deal caps Davis' sentence at 18 months.

The jury's sentence recommendation will be compared to the deal offered to Davis, and the lesser sentence will be imposed.

Davis described harsh conditions for the Abu Ghraib guards, saying they had to sleep in filthy jail cells and eat bad food while working long hours trying to control vast numbers of hostile prisoners.

"Abu Ghraib was like hell on earth," he said.

A psychology professor testified that Davis' abuse of detainees was triggered by the violent atmosphere at the prison and a lack of military discipline among guards.

Ervin Staub, who teaches at the University of Massachusetts, said Davis' abusive behavior as a prison guard followed a common pattern in which ordinary people become more physically aggressive in a brutish and unrestrained environment.

"Rules don't exist," Staub testified. "There was a lawlessness that developed."

But prosecutor Capt. Chris Graveline referred to other alleged incidents involving Davis, including a threat to an Air Force major and an assault on an Iraqi citizen. He said Davis sexually taunted prisoners and often counted out bullets and told detainees he had one for each of them.

Cautious sense of security envelops much of Baghdad

By HAMZA HENDAWI
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — It's too early to say whether last weekend's vote has dealt a blow to the insurgency. But in Baghdad, where nearly a quarter of the Iraqi population lives, the absence of any catastrophic attacks in recent days has given people a cautious sense of security.

All that could change with a single deadly car bomb in the heart of the city or sustained mortar fire on the Green Zone. Already a brief lull that followed Sunday's election was shattered by insurgent attacks that killed nearly 30 people around the country.

But most of those attacks were far from the capital, and after years of war, sanctions, military occupation and insurgency, Iraqis have grown used to a level of violence that many people would find intolerable.

For the time being, Baghdad is quieter than it has been, and the people of this once-vibrant capital have been trying to enjoy it.

The capital's streets were clogged with traffic for most of the day Thursday. Noisy wedding processions of cars festooned with plastic flowers held back traffic in many parts of the city.

Outdoor markets in some neighborhoods were bustling, children played in parks and crowds of well wishers gathered outside tour operators' offices waiting for relatives and friends returning from the annual pilgrimage to Mecca in neighboring Saudi Arabia.

"People feel safer after the elections," barber Jassim Rasheed said. "There are more people out on the streets today." Rasheed's brother, a Shiite cleric who led a humanitarian agency, was gunned down last year with his son and bodyguard.

Baghdad, home to six million Iraqis of mixed ethnic and religious backgrounds, was on edge in the days before Sunday's election for a 275-seat National Assembly. A surge of violence and a massive security presence kept many residents at home.

An 11-hour night curfew — since eased — added to the feel of a city under siege.

Although Baghdad has been spared major attacks, the lull that followed election day was shattered elsewhere starting Wednesday night. About 30 people, including two U.S. Marines and 12 new Iraqi army recruits, have since died in insurgent attacks.

Still, Baghdad was not entirely quiet. A suicide car bomber struck a foreign courier escorted by military Humvees on Baghdad's dangerous airport road, destroying several vehicles, according to an Iraqi police report. There were no official casualty reports.

Interior Minister Falah al-Naqib warned Thursday that the insurgency was likely to remain a major threat in the short term.

Speaking in a satellite video news conference from Baghdad with reporters in Washington, he said, "They think once we finished the election our security forces will relax and things will be much easier for them to [conduct attacks]."



Rhonda Shadle holds her son, Jacob, during a candlelight vigil Thursday at Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe, Hawaii, in honor of the Hawaii-based Marines and Pearl Harbor sailor killed in the Jan. 26 helicopter crash in Iraq. Several hundred members of the community surrounding the base attended the vigil.

Hawaii mourns crash victims

By RON STATON
The Associated Press

KANEHOE, Hawaii — Several hundred members of the community surrounding the Marine Corps Base Hawaii turned out Thursday night for a candlelight vigil in tribute to the 26 Hawaii-based Marines and one Pearl Harbor sailor who were killed in a helicopter crash in Iraq last week.

"The community just wanted to come together and do something," said Gay Jennings, the parent-community networking coordinator at Aikahi Elementary School.

The program at the Pacific War Memorial just inside the base gate was organized and led by students from Kalaehe High School, Kailua Intermediate School and Aikahi Elementary.

People placed flowers and leis at the base of the memorial, which was already covered in flowers from a public day of mourning on Sunday.

"The Marines have come and helped us with re-

pairs, they have done a lot for our community," said Kande Lopes, a counselor at Aikahi Elementary, who said 12 percent of the students at the school are from military families.

The program includes an invocation in the form of chanting the Lord's Prayer in Hawaiian by Hauoli Akaka, a member of the community. Students read aloud poems.

Col. Jeff Patterson, commander of the First Battalion, Third Marine Regiment that lost 26 Marines, thanked the community for their support. "We're touched deeply by the love and compassion we feel here tonight. Our family has grown and includes our Hawaiian *ohana* (family)," he said. "When we grieve, you grieve with us and when we bring our men back home and celebrate, we know you will celebrate with us."

The CH-53E Super Stallion went down in western Iraq on Jan. 26 transporting troops for security operations in preparation of Sunday's elections. Most of the 31 servicemen killed in the crash were based in Hawaii.

Islamic group upset over Mattis' remarks

Council seeks punishment for Marine general's 'fun to shoot some people' statement

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — A major U.S. Islamic group has called for "appropriate disciplinary action" for the Marine general who said, "It's fun to shoot some people."

"We do not need generals who treat the grim business of war as a sporting event," Nihad Awad, director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said in a statement. "These disturbing remarks are indicative of an apparent indifference to the value of human life."

The Washington-based CAIR's stated mission is "to enhance understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding."

Li Gen James Mattis, the commander of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command in Quantico, Va., offered no public apologies for his comments in the wake of a media dust-up.

Marine Corps officials at the Pentagon said they've received about a dozen calls and e-mails complaining about Mattis' com-

ments as well, but said there were no plans for disciplinary measures.

"As far as we're concerned, the issue is closed," said a spokesman.



Mattis

"We see this so-called counseling as less than a slap on the wrist," said Ibrahim Hooper, a spokesman for CAIR. "There should at least be some kind of formal reprimand. If the Pentagon wants to be seen as taking this seriously, they have to take serious action."

"I think the great military leaders throughout history has always viewed killing as necessary evil, not as source of pleasure," Hooper continued. "And in this case he's talking about killing Muslims. I don't think this helps America's image in the Muslim world."

Mattis was speaking at an electronics association gathering in San Diego on Wednesday.

"Actually, it's a lot of fun to fight," he

said. "You know, it's a hell of a word. I like bawling." Mattis can be heard on video captured at the event. "You go into Afghanistan, you got guys who slap women around for five years because they didn't wear a veil. You know, guys like that ain't got no manhood left anyway. So it's a hell of a lot of fun to shoot them."

In statement Thursday, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Mike Hagee said he had "counseled" Mattis, saying he wished the general had picked his word more carefully, while Joint Chiefs vice chairman and fellow Marine Gen. Peter Pace offered no rebuke on Mattis' comments.

"I will tell you that the last three times that that general has been in combat, when he was leading Marines in Afghanistan, and the two times that he led his division in Iraq, his actions, and those of his troops, clearly show that he understands the value of proper leadership and the value of human life," Pace told reporters Thursday at the Pentagon.

Twice Pace said Mattis was free to explain himself.

"I will leave it to him to tell you what he meant to say when he said what he said,"

said Pace.

Mattis, however, declined interview requests. A senior aide said the general does not want to add more fuel to the fire, but added, "He, like all Marines, considers it an honor to fight for his country."

Harrison Ford is reported to be starring as Mattis in what will be Hollywood's first feature about the current Iraq war, titled "No True Glory."

Some in the military community have come to Mattis' defense.

Hagee defended Mattis in a statement released Thursday.

"While I understand that some people may take issue with the comments made by him, I also know he intended to reflect the unfortunate and harsh realities of war. Lt. Gen. Mattis often speaks with a great deal of candor," wrote Hagee in his statement.

Hagee added that Mattis is one of Corps' "most courageous and experienced warriors. I remain confident that he will continue to serve this nation with dedication and distinction."

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'Kidnapped' Cody doll is latest must-have toy

BY WARD SANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

Special Ops Cody isn't a regular GI, and he's no ordinary Joe. Special Ops Cody is a star.

The \$39 action figure apparently kidnapped in an insurgent hoax to drum up American alarm has done well for himself. He's selling on eBay anywhere from around \$100 to more than \$230, and he's even scarce to be found downrange.

A blurred photo posted on a Web site Tuesday by a group called the Mujahideen Brigades was alleged to be military man John Adam, whom Iraqi insurgents

pledged to behead if coalition-held prisoners weren't released. The U.S. military, however, denied that a soldier was missing.

Then Liam Cusack, marketing coordinator of Dragon Models USA, recognized the determined jaw and vacant eyes as those of his Cody, a toy of a common manufactured for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service for sale at bases in the Middle East.

Cusack has been besieged by reporters ever since. Television crews showed up at his offices in the city of Industry, Calif. Crazy customers called him, too, wanting a Cody of their own.

"We have at least a dozen lines, and they were going all day long," Cusack said. "And we've had millions of hits on our Web site."

The masses may be disappointed. Cusack said the African-American version of the toy, which was seen in the photo, was made exclusively for military exchanges. Dragon doesn't sell directly to the public, and Cody was a limited edition hero.

"Our point is, once we quit making them, they're gone," Cusack said. "That's it."

The toys on eBay, then, likely came from the desert.

"I don't think there was any available here, unless people got them there and shipped them here," he said.

According to AAFES headquarters in Dallas, the exchange shipped 3,864 of the toys overseas in winter 2003, and deployed another 2,292 last September. Most were shipped to Iraq and Kuwait. But only about 20 percent of those are the African-American version.

According to the exchange, Cody is scarce in the field as well. An AAFES spokesman, Maj. David Accetta, was able to find one, and only one, Caucasian Cody at the Camp Liberty store outside Baghdad. According to Dan Tompkins, the vice president of AAFES operations in Iraq, it isn't clear whether the platoons of Cody fig-



PHOTOS BY DAVID A. ACCETTA/Courtesy of AAFES

After an Iraqi militant Web site posted a photo of what appears to be an action figure and claimed it was a kidnapped U.S. soldier, Special Ops Cody has experienced a surge in popularity. The toy, distributed only to Army and Air Force Exchange Service stores downrange, is selling for hundreds of dollars on eBay. Very few remain to be had at AAFES stores in the region. The African-American version of the doll, which was the one apparently featured in the militant photo, is even harder to come by.

ures were bought because of the hostage crisis or simply because of an earlier Christmas rush.

If there are any Cody troops in the field, they will not be brought back to base but allowed to remain expeditious.

"We will not pull them off the shelves," said Debbie Byerly, an AAFES spokeswoman in Germany.

But she doubted there'd be any left. "I'd buy one if I could," Byerly said.

Cody has also incited spate. A site run by a group called Jihad Watch posted a picture of a princess-looking doll and the headline, "GI hostage's mother pleads for son's life." A blogger posted a photo of another Dragon model, Col. Danny McKnight,

ready to deploy to save Cody's life. Another blogger posted a photo of a plastic, paint-faced KISS bassist Gene Simmons held hostage at the point of a toy rifle.

The Daily Force site scooped the world, showing a pregnant Barbie in angst over the fate of the soon-to-be-father in fatigues.

Were Barbie really to give birth to a Dragon military toy, how long would she have to wait?

Cusack said it can take anywhere from 90 days to a year to research, develop and finally debut a new toy.

"The U.S. military only makes a certain amount of weapons, so now we have most of the tooling time cut down."

E-mail reporter Ward Sanderson at: sandersonw@mail.estripes.osd.mil



Special Ops Cody, who was distributed to Army and Air Force Exchange Service stores downrange, made the news this week when insurgents claimed they had captured an American soldier. The soldier, it turned out, was the African-American version of the toy seen here.

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Overcoming stigma, dealing with trauma

DOD study: Troops who need counseling most are least likely to seek it

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Military health officials are trying to figure out how to reduce the stigma for troops seeking mental health care, but concede they're fighting an uphill battle.

"Stigma is a real problem. It's a societal issue, but it is much more pronounced in the military," said Col. Thomas Burke, one of the Pentagon's top psychiatrists and the director of mental health policy for the Defense Department.

"There is a perception among the troops that seeking mental health care means you're weak or a coward and frankly, we in the military kind of foster that attitude," said Burke. "We give medals to the soldiers who charge the hill, but don't really recognize the day-to-day heroism of soldiers who take care of themselves — doing simple things like changing their socks and cleaning their weapons — doing whatever it takes to keep themselves in condition to do the mission."

A recent Defense Department study looked at combat troops returning from Iraq for combat soldiers and Marines who need counseling the most are least likely to seek it. As many as 16 percent of the troops questioned admitted to symptoms of severe de-

pression, Post Combat Stress Disorder and other problems.

Of those, six out of 10 questioned felt their leaders would treat them differently and that fellow troops would lose confidence in them. As many as 65 percent said they'd "be seen as weak."

Army psychiatrist Col. Charles Hoge, lead author of the study, said, "Our most important finding was this concern about stigma and barriers to care, that is, the number of soldiers who have mental health issues who don't seek care."

Troops returning from combat soon will undergo two mandatory mental health assessments — one right away, one three to five months later — to make sure they aren't suffering long-term trauma, Department of Defense officials announced in January.

But self-identifying and pursuing further help might still be difficult for some.

Hoge, who is head of psychiatry at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Silver Spring, Md., said the key to reducing that stigma is "making mental health care more routine. If the troops view mental health care as routine as getting an X-ray, they'll be more likely to get it."

"What soldiers need to understand is that stress reactions — difficulty sleeping, reliving incidents in your mind, feeling

emotionally detached — these kinds of reactions are very common and really experienced after combat," said Hoge.

Wherever they go, they should remember that what they're feeling "is normal and it's nothing to be ashamed of."

The war on labels

But even in the combat zone, officials have made a conscious effort not to call troops seeking mental health care "patients."

"It's a hotly debated decision within the mental health community," said Burke, "and it cuts the very heart of the stigma issues."

On one hand, he said, calling those troops "patients" in the long run could help reduce the sense that problems coping with the horrors of combat are no different than bleeding from a gunshot wound.

On the other hand, studies have shown that the more troops are treated as sick — rather than simply experiencing normal reactions — the more likely they are to wrestle with mental health problems over time.

The biggest barrier to reducing stigma in the military, he said, is confidentiality.

"The military is in an ugly situation. In the civilian world, confidentiality is pretty strict," said Burke.

Firm laws are in place protecting patient privacy. "That's the provisions make exceptions for the military."

"You're never going to have complete confidentiality in the military system," said Burke. "That doesn't mean we open our books to anyone who wants to look — we are indeed very, very careful to safeguard privacy as much as possible — but the truth is, there is a big hole in the wall of confidentiality that will never close."

To ease those concerns, last year military officials opened up limited confidential counseling outside of the military health care system through its One Source program with civilian providers. And last week, officials announced they would add a second round of mental health screening a few months after troops return from combat.

Officials are also in early discussions to replicate the National Institute for Mental Health's recent "Real Men, Real Depression" public awareness campaign within the military.

For any program to work, said Burke, troops and military leaders need to understand "mental illness is not the kind of unsolvable problem that it once was." The message he tries to ram home is that usually it's not a matter of "problem soldiers, but soldiers with problems."

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Rumsfeld says he offered his resignation twice

Sec. felt some responsibility for scandal at Abu Ghraib

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld says he submitted his resignation twice to President Bush during last year's Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal.

"I felt that he ought to make the decision as to whether or not I stayed on," Rumsfeld said Thursday on CNN's "Larry King Live" program. "He made that decision and said he did want me to stay on."

Rumsfeld indicated that he felt a measure of responsibility for the scandal. At a Senate hearing in May, Rumsfeld said the abuses occurred on his watch and "I take full responsibility."

"The problem is, this kind of thing occurs in prisons across the country and across the world," he said. "And you have to know it's going to be a possibility. And therefore the training and the discipline and the doctrine has to be such that you anticipate that risk. And clearly, that wasn't done to the extent it should."

The release of photographs last spring depicting American soldiers abusing prisoners at the



With a photo of lines of Iraqi voters in the background, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld gestures during a Pentagon news conference Thursday to discuss the situation in Iraq. Rumsfeld said he submitted his resignation twice to President Bush during last year's Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal. He also said he may skip an appearance at a security conference in Germany next week because of a lawsuit there accusing him of war crimes for the prisoner abuse.

Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq triggered worldwide condemnation, particularly in the Arab world.

Rumsfeld told Congress at the time that he would quit if he felt he could no longer serve effectively, but he also said he would

not resign simply to please his critics and political opponents.

Some had speculated last fall that if Bush was re-elected he would replace Rumsfeld, but in December the president said he wanted him to stay. Rumsfeld

told CNN that when Bush asked him to stay for a second term, they did not discuss whether it would be for the full four years.

At a news conference at the Pentagon on Thursday, Rumsfeld said he may skip an appear-

ance at a security conference in Germany next week because of a lawsuit there accusing him of war crimes for the prisoner abuse.

"It's something that we have to take into consideration," he said when asked whether the war crimes suit was a factor in weighing whether to attend the Munich Conference on Security Policy, an annual gathering of government defense officials, lawmakers and others from Europe and elsewhere.

Rumsfeld said he had not yet made a final decision on attending the two-day conference, where an address by the U.S. defense secretary typically is a highlight. Last year, Rumsfeld stoutly defended the U.S. invasion of Iraq, which was highly unpopular in much of Europe.

Attorneys from the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights filed a suit with German federal prosecutors last November charging that U.S. officials, including Rumsfeld, are responsible for acts of torture against detainees at Abu Ghraib. Rumsfeld has maintained that the U.S. government has no policy to permit or encourage torture and that U.S. investigations of the Abu Ghraib abuses showed he was not directly responsible.

The lawsuit against Rumsfeld was filed in Germany because its laws allow for the prosecution of war crimes and human rights violations across national boundaries.

Because the United States is a member of the International Criminal Court, the case could not be filed there.

IN THE STATES

Gonzales takes reins at Justice Department

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Reporting for his first day as U.S. attorney general, Alberto Gonzales told Justice Department employees their priority would remain combating terrorism, "but we will do so in a way that's consistent with our values."

Gonzales was opposed by many Democrats because of his work on administration policies they faulted in the abuse of prisoners in Iraq. Speaking to employees Friday, he alluded to the controversy but emphasized his own heritage as the grandson of Mexi-



Gonzales

can immigrants and other up-from-poverty stories among members of President Bush's Cabinet. He said they had lived the American dream.

"It's historically the case that it falls on the shoulders of the attorney general to ensure that the dream is available," said Gonzales, who is the nation's first Hispanic attorney general.

His plate is already overflowing with serious tasks: Lobbying Congress for reauthorization of the USA Patriot Act, the Justice Department's premiere, and widely criticized, anti-terrorism law; investigating who among his former White House colleagues leaked a CIA employee's name to the media; and coming through on his promise to the Senate to prosecute anyone who tortured or abused foreign detainees.

He reminded Justice employees that Bush has said their top job is protecting the United States from future acts of terrorism.

"But we will do so in a way that's consistent with our values,

consistent with our legal obligations," said Gonzales, speaking in an ornate atrium near his new office.

Despite nearly unanimous praise for Gonzales' intelligence, his life story and his extensive work with Senate Democrats on judicial nominations and other administration issues, he was confirmed on a 60-36 vote with all of the "no" votes coming from Democrats and a Democratic-leaning independent.

He was quickly sworn in as the 90th U.S. attorney general by Vice President Dick Cheney in a private ceremony at the White House. Bush, during his trip

Thursday to North Dakota and Montana, called Gonzales to congratulate him after the vote.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said, "I like and respect Judge Gonzales as a person and as an inspiration," but "I am unsure Judge Gonzales is the right man for this crucial job."

Many said they couldn't look past his participation in administration policies they said had led to abuse of prisoners that occurred in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They also complained he refused to answer their questions on how those policies were created inside the White House.

Bush pitches pension plan for the young

The Associated Press

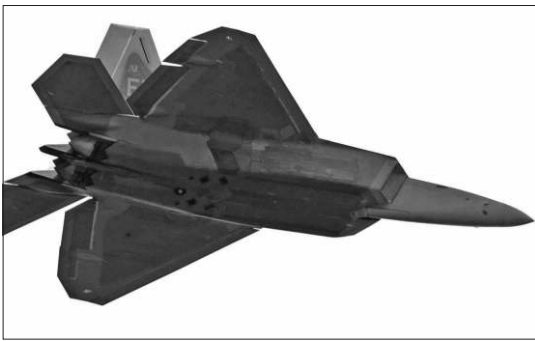
OMAHA, Nebraska — In a campaign-style road trip, President Bush is pressuring recalcitrant Democrats and wary Republicans to allow personal government pension accounts for young workers, saying Friday that the venerable retirement system needs major change to avoid going "flat bust."

"You can see the mathematical problem, right? Greater promises to more people who are living longer with fewer payers," he said at the Qwest Center-Omaha.

After his appearance here, Bush was holding similar sales pitches on his plans for the Social Security federal pension program in Arkansas and Florida, following stops Thursday in North Dakota and Montana.

Bush has asked Congress to approve legislation that would put Social Security on permanent stable financial footing — which he says will be "flat bust" by 2042, when it will be able to cover only about 73 percent of the benefits owed — and at the same time give younger workers the option of diverting up to two-thirds of their Social Security payroll taxes into private accounts they could invest in stocks and bonds.

The Social Security retirement benefit they've been promised under the existing plan, however, would be cut, although by how much is not clear.



An F/A-22 Raptor flies over Boeing Field near Seattle in May 2004. The Air Force is battling a proposal calling for the number of Raptors to be reduced. The service will be showing two stealth fighters off at the Super Bowl on Sunday.

AF to showcase Raptor at Super Bowl

The Associated Press

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — The Air Force will show off two of its pricey new F/A-22 Raptor stealth fighters Sunday at the Super Bowl in Jacksonville.

Air Force officials are battling budget-cutters over the jets that cost \$133 million each, not counting research and development.

"We are enthusiastic to showcase the air dominance capabilities of the F/A-22, and the Super Bowl is the perfect venue to do so," said Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, commander of Tyndall's 325th Fighter Wing.

The Pentagon recently decided to slash produc-

tion to 180 Raptors. Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, is trying to get the number back up to 381 during the next quadrennial defense review.

Two of the planes from the 43rd Fighter Squadron at this Florida Panhandle base will participate in pre-game ceremonies. Maj. Lance Pilch of Flemington, N.J., and Maj. Max Marosko of Coupland, Texas, will be at the controls of the Raptors for a fly-over with a pair of Navy F/A-18 Super Hornets from Oceana Naval Air Station, Va.

Tyndall is the only base where Raptor pilots are trained. Jumper completed three training flights here in the new jet on Jan. 12. Six days later, the first operational Raptor arrived at Langley Air Force Base, Va.

Jury mulling fate of priest in sex abuse case

The Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — A jury resumed deliberating the fate of defrocked priest Paul Shanley on Friday, weighing conflicting views on the repressed memories his accuser said came to him decades after the sexual abuse allegedly took place.

The jurors received the case Thursday afternoon and deliberated for 30 minutes before the judge sent them home for the day. They returned to Middlesex Superior Court, near Boston, on Friday.

The accuser said his memories of the abuse were repressed for 20 years and then resurfaced when the Boston church abuse scandal broke in 2002.

But Shanley's lawyer, Frank Mondano, said in his closing argument Thursday that they were false memories that were planted by a friend, who also had accused Shanley of abuse, and then were exploited by attorneys who filed a lawsuit.

"The core facts in this case are just not true," Mondano said. The man, now a 27-year-old firefighter in a Boston suburb, testified that Shanley began raping him while he was in the second grade, taking him out of religious education classes for discipline and raping him in the confessional.

Mondano said the man contacted personal injury lawyers soon after he recovered his memories in the confessional. The attorneys filed a suit on his behalf three months later. The man received \$500,000 last May.



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Actor Ossie Davis found dead in Fla. motel

BY HILLEL ITALIE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ossie Davis, the actor distinguished for roles dealing with racial injustice on stage, screen and in real life, has died, an aide said Friday. He was 87.

Davis, the husband and partner of actress Ruby Dee, was found dead Friday in his hotel room in Miami Beach, Fla., according to officials there. He was making a film called "Retirement," said Arminda Thomas, who works in his office in suburban New Rochelle, N.Y.

Davis, who wrote, acted, directed and produced for the theater and Hollywood, was a central figure among black performers of the last five decades. He and Dee celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1998 with the publication of a dual autobiography, "In This Life Together."

Miami Beach police spokesman Bobby Hernandez said Davis' grandson called the police shortly before 7 a.m. when his grandfather would have opened the door to his room at the Shore Club Hotel. Davis was found dead, and there does not appear to be any foul play, Hernandez said.

Davis had just started his movie on Monday, said Michael Livingston, his Hollywood agent. "I'm absolutely shocked," said Livingston. "He was the most wonderful man I've ever known. Such a classy, kindly man."

His wife had gone to New Zealand to make a movie there, Livingston said.

Davis and Dee first appeared together in the plays "Jeb," in 1946, and "Anna Lucasta," in 1946-47. Davis' first film, "No Way Out" in 1950, was Davis' fifth.

Both had key roles in the television series



Ossie Davis wears his Kennedy Center honors medal in December 2004 following a dinner celebrating lifetime achievements in the arts. Davis was found dead of unknown causes Friday. He was 87.

ries "Roots: The Next Generation" (1978), "Martin Luther King: The Dream and the Dream" (1986) and "The Stand" (1994). Davis appeared in four Spike Lee films, including "She Hate Me," "School Daze," "Do the Right Thing" and "Jungle Fever." Dee also appeared in the latter two, among her best-known films was "A Raisin in the

Sun," in 1961.

In 2004, Davis and Dee were among the artists selected to receive the Kennedy Center Honors.

When not on stage or on camera, Davis and Dee were deeply involved in civil rights issues and efforts to promote the cause of blacks in the entertainment industry. They nearly ran afoul of the anti-Communist witch-hunts of the 1950s, but were never openly accused of any wrongdoing.

Davis, the oldest of five children of a self-taught railroad builder and herb doctor, was born in Coddell, Ga., in 1917 and grew up in nearby Waycross and Valdosta. He left home in 1935, hitchhiking to Washington to enter Howard University, where he studied drama, intending to be a playwright.

His career as an actor began in 1939 with the Rose McClelland Players in Harlem, then the center of black culture in America. There, Davis met or mingled with some of the most influential figures of the time, including W.E.B. DuBois, A. Philip Randolph, Langston Hughes and Richard Wright.

He also had what he described in the book as a "flirtation with the Young Communist League," which he said essentially ended with the onset of World War II. Davis spent nearly four years in service, mainly as a surgical technician in an Army hospital in Liberia, serving both wounded troops and local inhabitants.

Back in New York in 1946, Davis debuted on Broadway in "Jeb," a play about a returning soldier. His co-star was Dee,

whose budding stage career had paralleled his own.

In December 1948, on a day off from rehearsals from another play, "The Smile of the World," Davis and Dee took a bus to New Jersey to get married. They already were so close that "it felt almost like an appointment we finally got around to keeping," Dee wrote in "In This Life Together."

As black performers, they found themselves caught up in the social unrest fomented by the then-new Cold War and the growing debate over social and racial justice in the United States.

"We young ones in the theater, trying to fathom even as we followed, were pulled this way and that by the swirling currents of these new dimensions of the Struggle," Davis wrote in the joint autobiography.

He lined up with black socialist reformer DuBois and singer Paul Robeson, remaining fiercely loyal to the singer even after Robeson was denounced by other black political, sports and show business figures for his openly communist and pro-Soviet sympathies.

While Hollywood and, to a lesser extent, the New York theater world became engulfed in McCarthyism and red-baiting controversies, Davis and Dee emerged from the anti-communist fervor unscathed, in Davis' view, justifiably so.

"We've never been, to our knowledge, guilty of anything — other than being black — that might upset anybody," he wrote.

Davis and wife Ruby Dee were deeply involved in civil rights issues.

Mother: Speech hug was 'between 2 moms'

BY DAVID JACKSON
The Dallas Morning News

WASHINGTON — When Janet Norwood of Plügererville, Texas, wrote President Bush about her son's death in Iraq, she had no idea she would become part of an emotional, tearful, globally televised hug — with an Iraqi woman who had recently cast her first vote.

"It was just an exchange between two moms," Norwood said Thursday.

Safia Taleb al-Sudani, whose father was assassinated by Saddam Hussein's secret service nearly a decade ago, hugged Norwood after President Bush paid tribute to Marine Sgt. Byron Norwood, 25, killed by a sniper in the 2004 battle for Fallujah.

"I told her our son would be so proud," Norwood said.

"All I remember her saying is just, 'Thank

you, thank you,'" she added. "There was just so much emotion at that point."

There was also some laughter amid the tears — the dog tags Janet Norwood carried got caught with one of al-Sudani's buttons, making it difficult to disentangle.

"All I could think of was, 'You've got to hurry up and sit down so everyone else can sit down,'" Norwood said with a chuckle.

The hug is likely to be the most remembered part of the evening, though Norwood and husband William said the focus should be on their son and others who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

"As long as the honor is for Byron and all the Marines he served with, we're fine," William Norwood said. "It's more about them than us."

Janet Norwood wrote Bush in December, a letter the president quoted in his speech:

"When Byron was home the last time, I said that I wanted to protect him like I had since he was born. He just hugged me and said, 'You've done your job, Mom. Now it is my turn to protect you.'"

The Norwoods said they received a call from a White House staff member asking if they would attend the State of the Union.

"We had absolutely no idea who was going to be in that box," Norwood said.

After the speech, she spoke with Bush backstage. She gave him a set of prayer beads her son had received in Iraq.

"It was extremely touching," Norwood said. "I cried on his shoulder. It was quite amazing."

Norwood wanted to correct one news report — that he did not give her dog tags to al-Sudani.

"I will never part with those dog tags," she said. "Byron was wearing them when he died."

The boys, now 3½, are walking and talking after months of rehabilitation. They still wear helmets to protect their brains.

FB's system criticized

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers criticized FBI Director Robert Mueller on Thursday for continued problems with a costly computer project that was supposed to dramatically improve management of terrorism and other cases. Mueller acknowledged he does not yet know how much the FBI's Virtual Case File will cost beyond the \$170 million already budgeted and largely spent, or when FBI agents and analysts will have it on their computers.

From The Associated Press

Church scam trial

ROME, Ga. — The Rev. Abraham Kennard shared the dream of a string of Christian resorts with a few of his fellow black ministers. They told a few more. And the few more told a few more.

Soon, congregations nationwide — many with a few dozen members — were holding fish fries, sponsoring cake walks and throwing carnivals to raise the \$3,000 they needed to invest in Kennard's company.

For their small investment, the faithful were assured they would eventually get their money back more than 100 times over. But prosecutors say they were duped.

Kennard, 46, was charged with

bilking nearly \$9 million from 1,600 churches in 41 states in just over a year. His month-long trial on 132 counts — from money laundering to tax evasion to mail fraud — ended Thursday and his fate now lies with a jury, which was scheduled to begin deliberations Friday.

Greenspan on deficit

LONDON — U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said Friday that a variety of factors from a weaker dollar to tougher budget discipline in Congress may finally start to restrain the explosive growth in the American trade deficit.

Greenspan, however, cautioned that the global economy is

essentially in uncharted waters given the unprecedented level of economic interaction between the countries and thus any forecast of where the trade deficit is headed could prove to be wrong.

Surgery planned

DALLAS — One of the Egyptian twins whose heads were delicately separated more than a year ago will undergo reconstructive surgery on Monday to help complete his skull, and his brother will have the same surgery in March, doctors said Thursday.

Ahmed and Mohamed Ibrahim, born joined at the top of their heads, were separated at a Dallas hospital in October 2003 in a risky 34-hour procedure.

Movie villain John Vernon dead at 72

The Washington Post

John Vernon, a stage-trained actor who played a series of slimy villains and authority figures — never so well as in "National Lampoon's Animal House," in which he was the evil college dean — died Feb. 1 at his home in Los Angeles of heart surgery complications.

He was 72. Vernon had more than a passing resemblance to Richard Burton and played rugged, often treacherous figures in dozens of films and television shows.

As Dean Vernon Wormer in "Animal House" (1978), he was the antithesis of a good time. He ignores his alcoholic wife and disdains the fun-loving students.

With delight, he tells them, "I'm sure you'll be happy to know that I've notified all your draft boards and told them you are all, eligible for military service."

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As Dean Vernon Wormer in "Animal House" (1978), he was the antithesis of a good time. He ignores his alcoholic wife and disdains the fun-loving students.

Super Bowl torture for gambling addicts

BY JOHN CURRAN
The Associated Press

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, N.J. — Once one, they filed in for a Tuesday night meeting of Gamblers Anonymous.

One man wore an Eagles sweat shirt. One remembered the Super Bowl Sunday he spent baby-sitting his granddaughter, only to find himself with an uncontrollable urge to bet \$10,000 on the game, 10 years after his last bet.

Then there was the newcomer, facing his first Super Bowl since he quit a lifelong addiction in which he bet up to \$12,000 a game on the NFL.

"It's a tough week," he told the gathering. "It's the trifecta: We've got football, the Super Bowl and my favorite team playing."

For gambling addicts like these, the Super Bowl is anything but super. The buildup to Sunday can be even worse: It is a time to relive bad memories, to fight

For those in Philly and New England, it the worst time of the year

gnawing temptations, to avoid thinking about the event everyone seems to be talking about.

That's a difficult proposition, especially here — in a southern New Jersey community awash in Philadelphia Eagles fever. There are "Go Eagles" signs on cars, grocery store circulars advertising Super Bowl snacks and seemingly nonstop coverage of Terrell Owens' injury on radio and TV.

"It just have to ignore it, and it's really difficult in this area because of all the hype about the Eagles," said Harvey Fogel, a compulsive gambling counselor.

The sun is true in New England, where Patriots fans are immersed in the team's hunt for a third NFL title in four years.

The game also is the subject of advertising, news media coverage, office pools and

watercooler talk about the Patriots, who are favored by a touchdown to beat the Eagles.

"Certainly, this is a hard time for folks in recovery from sports betting," said Marlene Warner, program director of the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling. "In particular, the media's hyping the Super Bowl, saying it's a dynasty here in New England and the Patriots are favored to win."

"It's kind of a 'We can't lose' attitude and I'm sure that's sending signals to people that it's a sure bet, that if you're going to bet, this is the time to do it. That starts thinking in people like I'll, maybe this one time, I can do it," Warner said.

To recovering gamblers whose passion was sports betting, the Super Bowl means super temptation.

It is an opportunity to salvage a losing season, a chance to erase debts with one big victory — lots of chances, in fact: There are dozens of possible bets, including who wins the coin toss, whether the game's first punt will hit the ground or be caught cleanly and whether the reigning champs' point total will be an even number or an odd one.

Nevada sports books anticipate taking up to \$100 million in legal bets on Sunday's game. Millions more dollars are expected to be wagered on the Internet.

And come Monday, the 1-800-GAMBLER helpline run by the New Jersey Council on Compulsive Gambling expects to see its annual spike, with bottomed-out gamblers seeking help. Typically, the lines see a 50 percent increase in calls in the week after the game, according to Ed Weed, who runs it.

Nude juice bar thrives despite law

BY DIRK LAMMERS
The Associated Press

SALEM, S.D. — The mix of nude dancers, orange juice and black-and-white independent films wasn't in Bob Rieger's original business plan.

But it has helped his Racehorses and Gentlemen's Club survive amid the cornfields of South Dakota and fend off a two-year barrage of challenges from politicians and a small group of outraged locals.

"I've been to court with them four times, and I beat them every time," Rieger says.

When the county denied Rieger a liquor license for a bar, he opened a strip club with a juice bar in 2003. When it served a stop order saying a commercial business could not operate in area zoned for agriculture, Rieger went to court and won.

And when 74 percent of the county's voters passed an anti-nudity ordinance in June, Rieger found a loophole that exempted movie theaters. After a two-week hiatus, the club re-emerged as Racehorses Gentlemen's Club and Adult Movie Theatre and has been operating ever since.



Racehorses Gentlemen's Club and Adult Movie Theatre is shown Friday in Salem, S.D. Owner Bob Rieger has continued to offer nude dancing at the club despite a barrage of legal challenges.

Now the county is drawing up a new ordinance that would require his dancers to wear pasties and G-strings. And a state senator plans to push for a similar state law.

McCook County State's Attorney Roger Gerlach says the proposed ordinance is not an attempt to put Rieger out of business: "As long as they have some opaque clothing over the crucial parts of the human body, they can dance all they want."

In the meantime, customers continue paying \$10 — officially an all-day movie ticket — to watch strippers dance. Patrons can sit next to the stage or get a private dance in a small room to the side. They also can grab a stool at the juice bar and order a \$3 drink.

When Rieger retold his business

ness as a movie theater, he said he would feature independent, artsy R-rated films. During a recent visit, though, hardcore fare was playing in the club's 17-seat theater.

The 15-member Citizens Against Nude Juicebars and Pornography has organized protests outside the club and filmed patrons in the parking lot to discourage them from entering.

After Rieger seized on a loophole in the law that allows nudity in such places as movie theaters, health clubs and college art classes, Pulse's group dropped its protests for fear of being hit with harassment charges. Republican state Senator Clarence Koolstra plans to take the fight to the next level and propose a state law that would force Rieger's dancers to cover up.

Actress' final words provide tragic lesson

BY TOM HAYS
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — As an actress, Nicole duPresne had roles in dozens of way-off-Broadway productions.

But it was an unfortunate real-life line witnesses say duPresne uttered before her slaying — "What are you going to do, shoot us?" — that has brought her to the public's attention.

Authorities have refused to speculate whether the 28-year-old actress and playwright's defiant stand against a bandit prompted him to shoot her to death last week on a New York City street.

"Regardless of what the victim said or did not say, the person responsible for her death is the one who pulled the trigger," Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said earlier this week.

Safety advocates, however, have cited the case as a lesson in how not to respond to a holdup.

On Wednesday, the Washington-based National Crime Prevention Council responded to widespread reports about duPresne's last words by circulating a list of tips on how to survive a mugging.

"It demonstrates that confronting an attacker is probably the worst thing you can do," said council spokesman Todd Post.

duPresne, a Minnesota transplant whose Internet resume listed "stage combat" as one of her skills, was leaving a bar with her fiancé and another couple at 3 a.m. Jan. 27 when they were accosted by a group of youths who already had tried to rob another person earlier in the evening.

Witnesses told police that when the group demanded the other woman's purse, duPresne responded with: "What are you going to do, shoot us?" Police said she also may have gotten into a brief shouting match with the shooter before he fired a bullet into her chest.

Police arrested the alleged triggerman, Rudy Fleming, 19, and two teenage girls they say took a cell phone and credit cards and helped hide the murder weapon.



A 19-year-old man was charged Tuesday with fatally shooting, aspiring actress Nicole duPresne, after she challenged a group of muggers on a Manhattan street.

All three have been charged with murder and robbery.

On its tip sheet, the crime prevention council advises potential victims to stay cool and comply with robbers. At the same time, people should take mental notes on what the assailant looks like so they can provide a detailed description to police, the sheet says.

A robbery is more about power than anything," said Alfonso E. Lenhardt, president of the nonprofit council, known for its McGruff the Crime Dog mascot.

"It's a tragedy, but in this case it sounds like [the suspect] felt he wasn't getting the respect he was due," Lenhardt said. "When a gun is in the hands of a desperate person with low self-esteem, they're going to react that way."

The others charged in the killing are Ashley Evans, 18, the daughter of a former New York police officer, and Tatianna McDonald, 14. Two young men were charged in the earlier robbery attempt, while two other youths are considered by police to be witnesses.

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IN THE WORLD

Gitmo concerns

GENEVA — U.N. human rights experts Friday expressed concern about possible "irreversible psychiatric symptoms" developing among suspected terrorists entering a fourth year of virtual solitary confinement at the U.S. prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The experts on arbitrary detention noted allegations that detainees at Guantanamo may be subject to "inhuman and degrading treatment."

U.S. authorities said they were treating the Guantanamo prisoners consistent with the Geneva Conventions, though they say the accords do not apply to the detainees, claiming they are "enemy combatants" as opposed to prisoners of war.

Georgia PM dies

TBILISI, Georgia — Georgia's parliamentary speaker cut short a foreign trip after the death of Prime Minister Zuraab Zhvania, returning to the stunned ex-Soviet republic Friday and urging the government not to lose momentum in its efforts to reinvigorate the struggling country.

Nino Burdzhanadze, an ally of Zhvania and of President Mikhail Saakashvili, arrived in Tbilisi from a private visit to Italy. She called on the government to "continue to work in its usual rhythm" despite "a big loss for Georgian politics and the Georgian state."

Zhvania — a key figure in efforts to stem corruption and resolve two simmering separatist conflicts — was found dead early Thursday at a friend's home, apparently poisoned accidentally by carbon monoxide from a gas-fired heating stove.

First mad cow case

TOKYO — Japan confirmed its first human case of mad cow disease Friday following the death of a man who had symptoms of the fatal brain wasting illness.

Health Ministry officials and experts from a ministry panel on the disease were holding an emergency meeting to determine whether the man had contracted the disease by eating infected beef.

Masahtō Yamada, a panel expert, said it was likely the man contracted the disease while living for one month in Britain — where mad cow first surfaced — in 1989.

Terror arrest

MADRID, Spain — Authorities in a Spanish enclave in North Africa have arrested a suspect in last year's Madrid train bombings, the seventh person detained this week, police said.

The March 11 train bombings, which killed 191 people and wounded more than 1,500, had been claimed in videos by militants saying they acted on behalf of al-Qaida.

Rachid Mohamed Kaddur, a 34-year-old Spaniard, was arrested Thursday night in Melilla, one of two Spanish enclaves on the coast of Morocco, police said.

From The Associated Press

Rice: Iran attack 'not on the agenda'

Secretary of State begins first leg of visit across Europe

BY ANNE GEARAN

The Associated Press

LONDON — U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said a U.S. attack on Iran "is simply not on the agenda at this point," despite the United States' continued criticism of Iran's suspected nuclear weapons ambitions and human rights record.

Speaking in London, the first stop on a weeklong tour of European capitals, Rice would not say whether the United States supports a change of government in Iran. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage has said regime change is not the U.S. goal.

Rice said there is broad international agreement that Iran cannot be allowed to use a civilian nuclear power project to conceal a weapons program — a charge which Tehran denies.

After a meeting with British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, Rice was asked directly during the news conference whether the United States might attack Iran.

"The question is simply not on the agenda at this point," she re-

Secretary Rice's first trip

Condoleezza Rice meets with prime ministers and foreign ministers of Europe and the Middle East on her first trip as secretary of state.

- 1 London
- 2 Berlin, Warsaw
- 3 Ankara, Tel Aviv
- 4 Jerusalem, West Bank
- 5 Rome, gives major address in Paris
- 6 Paris, Brussels; meets with European Union leadership in Luxembourg
- 7 Luxembourg



sponded.

"We believe particularly in regard to the nuclear issue that while no one ever asks the American president to take all his options,

any of his options off the table, that there are plenty of diplomatic means at our disposal to get the Iranians to finally live up to their international obligations," she said.

N. Korea threatens attack on U.S. bases

BY SANG-HUN CHOE

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea will turn U.S. military bases in the region into a "sea of fire" if war breaks out on the Korean Peninsula, North Korea media on Friday quoted a communist officer as saying.

The North's state-run news media highlighted the comment hours after South Korea released a new defense policy paper that revealed a U.S. reinforcement plan to dispatch 690,000 troops and 2,000 warplanes if war breaks out in Korea.

North Korea's saber-rattling rhetoric comes as the isolated North is urging its military to prepare for what it calls a U.S. plan to invade. Washington and its allies say they are trying to end the North's nuclear weapons programs through multinational disarmament talks.

"If the U.S. imperialists ignite flames of war, we will fire at all strike all bases of U.S. imperialist aggressors and turn them into a sea of fire," North Korea's Central Radio quoted officer Hur



U.S. troops of the 728th Military Police Battalion salute to U.S. national flag during Task Force Warrior's welcome home ceremony at the U.S. military base in Daegu on Friday. The United States will dispatch 690,000 troops and 2,000 warplanes if war breaks out on the Korean Peninsula, said South Korea's defense white paper on Friday.

Ryong as saying, according to the South Korean news agency Yonhap.

Hur made his comment as saying that the North Korean military "will thoroughly incinerate the aggressor elements that collude with the U.S. imperialists," in an apparent reference to South Korea and Japan, both of which host U.S. military bases.

Wednesday during a debate in Pyongyang on leader Kim Jong Il's "army-first" policy that stresses military strength.

Earlier Friday, South Korea released its new defense white

paper that mirrored its efforts to redefine half-century-old confrontation with the communist North as well as adjust its alliance with the United States.

The white paper, which has been updated for the first time in four years, removes 10-year-old references to North Korea being the South's "main enemy," though it still calls the North a "direct military threat."

The commitment of U.S. troops in the event of war appears aimed at easing concerns that Washington's plan to use U.S. troops in South Korea as rapid regional deployments could create a security vacuum in the world's last remaining Cold War flash point.

Asked during the plane trip here Thursday whether the United States should get more directly involved in the talks, the Europeans are having with Iran, she said, "The Iranians know what they need to do. It's not the absence of anybody's involvement that is keeping the Iranians from knowing what they need to do."

Earlier, Rice met with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the United States' closest ally in Iraq, holding her first meeting with a foreign leader since taking over from Colin Powell as America's top diplomat.

Their 90-minute breakfast meeting at Blair's Downing Street office covered Iraq, the Middle East and other subjects.

On her way to London on Thursday, Rice indicated the United States may take a back seat for now in the international effort to bring Israel and the Palestinians closer to a lasting peace.

Rice said she does not plan to attend next week's Middle East summit meeting in Egypt.

"Not every effort has to be an American effort," she said.

She said the United States welcomes Egypt's help in hosting the summit and called it one of several hopeful signs for peace.

She will visit eight European capitals and the Vatican, with a week-end stop in Tel Aviv to see the Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

The Associated Press

Afghans to continue search for missing jet

KABUL, Afghanistan — NATO forces on Friday suspended for the night their ground and air search for an Afghan passenger jet carrying 104 people, including about 3 Americans and 16 other foreigners, after it disappeared from radar screens during a snowstorm near the mountain-ringed capital.

As temperatures plunged overnight, relatives and officials expressed growing concern that any of the missing can be found alive after what could turn out to be the war-ravaged country's deadliest air disaster.

The Kam Air Boeing 737-200 took off Thursday from the western city of Herat bound for Kabul, but was unable to land because of poor visibility. The airline initially said the plane was diverted to neighboring Pakistan, but officials there said it never reached their airspace.

Afghanistan's NATO peacekeeping force sent helicopters and ground teams to scour an area southeast of the city, where officials said the plane was last located on Thursday afternoon, but they returned empty-handed.

NATO and Afghan officials denied reports that the wreckage had been located, and said they would widen their search when it resumed early Saturday.

Large acid leak in Sweden hurts 13

BY MATTIAS KAREN
The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — About 11,000 tons of sulfuric acid leaked from a chemical plant in southern Sweden on Friday, forming a poisonous gas cloud over the city of Helsingborg that forced citizens to stay indoors for four hours, officials said.

Officials said at least 13 people were injured, but none seriously. No fatalities were reported.

The acid leaked out shortly after 4 a.m. from the Kemira Kemi factory in central Helsingborg, a port city on Sweden's southwestern coast, 370 miles south of the capital, Stockholm.

Large sections of the city were blocked off to traffic Friday morning, and ferry traffic to Denmark was canceled. By 11 a.m., most streets were reopened, except for the blocks surrounding the chemical plant.

Residents had initially been warned to stay

indoors and not go outside, but by the morning, the cloud was beginning to evaporate and the danger lessening.

Carina Mohlin, director of the Helsingborg Lasarett hospital, said six factory employees were taken to the hospital, some with teary eyes and respiratory problems, but none with serious injuries.

Two police officers and five others were also taken in with similar symptoms, but all 13 had been cleared from the hospital by 11 a.m., she said.

"They were taken through a decontamination tent," Mohlin said.

"They were all nearby when it happened, and were coughing."

No other injuries were reported.

Christina Didner, a pharmacist with the Swedish Poisons Information Center said exposure to low concentrations of sulfuric acid "could cause teary eyes, an irritated nose and throat and some coughing. If you notice these symptoms, just go back inside."

Ronny Moeller, a spokesman for the Helsingborg Rescue Service, said the leak was probably caused by a broken water pipe that softened the ground under the tank holding the acid. The unstable soil then apparently caused the tank to crack, he said.

Kemira Kemi officials could not immediately be reached for comment, but the company issued a statement saying its delivery of sulfuric acid would resume shortly.

Moeller said the sulfuric acid leaked into a nearby harbor, mixing with the water and creating a large gas cloud that drifted out over the water.

Rescue officials will work through the day to pump the remaining acid into the water, which environmental authorities said was the best way to decontaminate the area. Another tank containing a similar amount of sulfuric acid will also be emptied as a safety measure, Moeller said.

"We don't know what the ground looks like underneath it," he said.

Honest real estate

OSLO, Norway — A Norwegian real estate investor tired of glowing but inaccurate property advertisements opted for blunt honesty in offering an apartment for sale.

"Guesstimate two-room apartment with balcony," said the advertisement posted on the Funn.no Internet site last week. "A very worn-out apartment."

Some Norwegian real estate brokers exaggerate wildly in their advertisements, describing, for example, a total ruin as a "charming fixer-upper."

Arne Loe Soerlie, a professional real estate investor, said he had wasted so much time because of such advertisements that he wanted to be truthful to spare others the same.

"I've learned to read between the lines, but still end up wasting a lot of time," he said.

Stop hearing damage

OSLO, Norway — The motto of the Norwegian Rock 'n' roll Federation could well be "Turn it up!" but the group fears increasing numbers of members might respond to that request with an uncomprehending "What?"

The group plans to distribute 100,000 earplugs at rock concerts, so fans can enjoy the loud music and still hear what's said after the show.

"We can state, with great concern, that an increasing number of young Norwegians suffer from hearing damage," the group said. "This project will put the spotlight on the noise damage sustained by young people in their leisure time, and encourage concert audiences to take responsibility for their own hearing."

Doctor faces insanity

OSLO, Norway — A Norwegian doctor called in for military service would have made the malingering Cpl. Klinger of "M*A*S*H" proud.

The doctor rubbed sour cream in his hair, poured sticky liqueur in his shoes, spilled beer on his clothes and sat in a closet smoking 40 cigarettes at a time in a bid to convince the military that he wasn't fit mentally for service, the *Fredrikstad Blad* newspaper reported Thursday.

And just to be sure he looked and felt as worst, he stayed awake for two days before his physical, the newspaper said.

As part of Norway's compulsory military service, veterans, such as the doctor, can be called back for refresher training or longer service.

It worked too. He was so convincing that the military doctor alerted the national health authority about the man they had licensed to work as physician.

An analysis of his records, however, showed that not only was he not insane, but he had received high marks from his patients, the newspaper said. Now, the doctor is facing likely disciplinary action from the military and the medical board.

From The Associated Press

Vatican: Pope's health continues to improve

BY ANGELA DOLAND
The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II's health is continuing to improve and he has begun eating, the Vatican said Friday, but it would not commit to the pope's weekly address on Sunday from the hospital treating him for the flu and respiratory troubles.

"The state of health of the Holy Father has improved," papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls told reporters, reading from a brief Vatican medical bulletin. He said tests confirmed that the 84-year-old pope's latest health crisis had stabilized, and that there was a "favorable evolution" of the breathing troubles he suffered earlier in the week.

It was unclear when the pope began taking food, Navarro-Valls, who refused to elaborate on virtu-

ally any point of the health bulletin, said only: "Certainly today, maybe yesterday evening, but certainly today."

Underscoring the sense that the frail pontiff was not in immediate danger, Navarro-Valls said the Holy See would not issue another medical update until Monday.

But he would not confirm that John Paul would go ahead with his weekly address via an audio hookup from his papal suite at Rome's Gemelli Polytechnic hospital in place of his usual perch in the window high above St. Peter's Square.

"It's very important to him and something he does not want to miss," Navarro-Valls said.

A member of the papal entourage at the hospital acknowledged Friday that the pope's difficult speaking is one of the prob-



Pope John Paul II

lems in deciding how to handle Sunday's address, a papal tradition that John Paul rarely has skipped.

Vatican Radio said John Paul spent a third restless night at the hospital, but said the pope can-

celed a Friday meeting with Joseph Borrell, the president of the European Parliament. Borrell met instead with Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano, as will U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice when she visits the Vatican on Tuesday, officials said.

The pope's age and Parkinson's disease make his flu more dangerous, and doctors were watching him closely for any signs of complications such as pneumonia.

On Thursday, Navarro-Valls suggested the pope might spend up to a week at the clinic's tightly guarded papal suite, telling reporters, "When I've had the flu, it lasts seven days."

"We all are praying for him," said German Cardinal Karl Lehmann, attending a Mass at Rome's Saint John Lateran basilica.

Associated Press writer Daniela Petroff in Rome contributed to this report.

Icebreakers clear the way for U.S. cargo ships

BY RAY LILLEY
The Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — U.S. ships have delivered food, fuel and equipment to Antarctic science bases, despite fears they would not be able to pass through the ice pack formed behind the world's largest iceberg, officials said Thursday.

A fuel tanker and cargo ship, following a 94-mile path cut by icebreakers through up to 10-feet-thick ice, has reached a pier in McMurdo Sound, U.S. National Science Foundation spokesman Arthur Brown said.

The ice pack was nearly double its normal 48-mile width after building up behind the world's biggest iceberg, known as B15A, which has blocked wind and water currents that usually break up ice floes in the sound.

Brown said the American icebreaker *Polar Star* and Russian icebreaker *Krasin* encountered ice between 5 and 10 feet thick as they cut the channel.

The icebreakers "had a bit of maneuvering to do to get round B15A and its remnant pieces. But once that was done, they had a pretty straight shot to open a channel up into McMurdo Station," Brown said.

Three weeks ago, scientists said B15A, a



U.S. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION/AP

U.S. tanker *Polar Star*, docks at McMurdo station, Antarctica, Thursday, as the Russian icebreaker *Krasin* sits at right. Using a track smashed by icebreakers, cargo ships have been able to offload supplies of food, fuel and equipment for science bases on the frozen continent.

100-mile long iceberg, had run aground within three miles of slamming into a huge glacier known as the Drygalski Ice Tongue. It

blocked paths to the sea for thousands of penguins, leaving up to 50,000 young chicks to starve to death in the area this season.

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OPINION

Reaching out to reasonable Sunnis

BY GARY ANDERSON

When the votes are counted in Iraq, it's almost certain that the majority of members of the assembly chosen to draft the new constitution will be Shiite Muslims, with a strong representation of Kurds. At that point, they will face a question they must deal with quickly: What to do about the Sunnis? It's likely that the nation's Sunni majority will be grossly underrepresented in the outcome of Sunday's elections, in part because of insurgent intimidation and in part because of a deliberate boycott.

Sunni resistance to the concept of majority rule is real. Much of it is fed by a fear of Shiite and Kurdish retaliation for centuries of Sunni domination. The Sunni insistence is not a national resistance move-

worked, but the price was the greatest bloodletting in our nation's history. The majority imposed its will on the minority, and the nation took the way it does today because of that choice.

The problem with the civil war analogy is that our Civil War was fought in a relative vacuum. With a weak Mexico to our south and a British Canadian colony to our north, we could shed blood with relatively little worry about immediate interference from our neighbors. Iraq does not have that luxury.

The second alternative is to act quickly to bring the former members of the Sunni insurgency back into the tent and to the bargaining table as partners in crafting a constitution. In keeping members of the Sunni resistance out of the process, we run the risk of making the same mistake we made in Somalia. By giving the other side no option but to fight, we ensure a long, bloody struggle.

In keeping members of the Sunni resistance out of the process, we run the risk of making the same mistake we made in Somalia. By giving the other side no option but to fight, we ensure a long, bloody struggle.

There is good evidence that some of the more competent Baathist leadership on the insurgent side is made up of relatively young midlevel members of the former security services, rather than the discredited members of the Saddam clique. By automatically excluding them from the process, the Iraqi government would give them very little choice but to keep fighting.

By offering an immediate amnesty and allowing for the former midlevel Baathists to form a legitimate party to represent Sunni interests, the new Iraqi leadership can drive a wedge separating nationalist Iraqi Sunnis who might want to participate from the foreign fighters and hard-core former members of the dis-

credited regime.

When interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi made this offer to the Sunni resistance before, the caveats he put on it — at the insistence of hard-line Shiites and in response to bad advice from some Americans — were clearly unacceptable. Anyone who had waged a successful attack on the Americans or government forces was automatically excluded from the process. This left the opposition with a choice between continuing to fight and capitulating. The new government has the temporary advantage of being able to ignore such pressure.

The opposition in Iraq is a fragile coalition of forces with incompatible views as to its goals — other than the goal of getting the Americans out of the country. In fact, some of the most radical members probably want to see us remain, since shooting at Americans is their sole claim to legitimacy. Fracturing that coalition is the key to success.

Gary Anderson, a retired Marine Corps officer, has been an adviser to the Defense Department on the creation of Iraqi security forces and has traveled to Iraq in that capacity. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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E-mail: letters@mail.starsandstripes.com

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



Mallard Fillmore

Mallard's sage
Super Bowl
Prediction # 6



In response to the recurrent myth that "there's more domestic violence on Super Bowl Sunday than any other day." The Fillmore Foundation will release data...

"Proving that 'there are more obsolete feminists making stuff up on Super Bowl Sunday than any other day...'"

Cartoon by Gary Trudeau. © 2004 by Garry Trudeau.

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



GLENN MCCOY/Universal Press Syndicate



WALT HANDELSMAN/Tribune Media Services



STEVE GREENBERG/VENTURA COUNTY STAR 2005

greenberg@VenturaCountyStar.com www.greenberg-art.com

STEVE GREENBERG/Scissors Howard

Museum gets bones

ME PRESQUE ISLE

After years without the one must-have for a science museum, the Northern Maine Museum of Science is getting some dinosaurs.

The museum recently acquired two large dinosaur bones from the Museum of the Rockies in Montana, said Kevin McCartney, a geology professor at the University of Maine in Presque Isle. The bones are a rib, from a hadrosaur "duck-billed" dinosaur and a partial triceratops skull — weigh in at about 200 pounds each.

Gov. saves some trees

NE HASTINGS — Mike Johanns is out as Nebraska's governor, but his stationery will stay.

Gov. Dave Heineman said he would have his name printed at the bottom of Johanns' stationery. To do otherwise would be wasteful, Heineman said.

"That's just one small way for me to send a message to every single agency. Let's watch our pennies and if we watch our pennies together, ultimately, we can save millions," he said.

Heineman said the state also would continue handing out state maps with photos of Johanns and his wife on them.

Students cry foul

FL PORT WALTON BEACH — The children at Ocean City Elementary say school stinks.

And they're right. More than 100 have transferred from Ocean City Elementary because of an aging and outmoded sewage treatment plant next door is emitting a foul odor.

"The smell affects us physically as well as the operation of our school," said Principal Debbie Boutwell. She said the school's budget is affected because out of 77 children who received zoning waivers not to attend the school, 70 cited the smell as the reason.

Okaloosa County officials said it would be another three years before the treatment plant could be closed.

School removes plaque

PA PHILADELPHIA — Villanova University, stung by criticism from students, alumni and others, removed a plaque honoring a history professor who — suffering from postpartum depression — killed her disabled infant daughter.

Mine Ener, 38, who committed suicide in a Minnesota jail less than a month after slitting her baby's throat in August 2003, taught at the suburban Philadelphia university's Center for Arab and Islamic Studies. The university will instead organize a mental-health symposium to honor her memory.

Real estate on the rise

TX PHOENIX — The median price of a used home in the area climbed 22 percent during 2004, hitting a record \$190,000 in December, according to Arizona



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

State University's Arizona Real Estate Center. Despite the sagging affordability, new- and used-home sales broke records in 2004.

Climbing ban upheld

NV RENO — A federal judge in Reno has upheld a climbing ban at Cave Rock on Lake Tahoe's east shore.

The Jan. 28 ruling by U.S. District Judge Howard McKibben upholds a management plan adopted by the U.S. Forest Service in 2003 to prohibit rock climbing on the landmark that is held sacred by the Washoe Tribe.

McKibben rejected a lawsuit filed last year by The Access Fund, a Colorado-based advocacy group for climbers. Among other things, the suit argued the ban was unconstitutional because it promotes the closing of public lands for religious purposes.

Firefighters struggling

MA BOSTON — Most firefighters who died fighting blazes in recent years were working under substandard conditions, in part because of delays, or had entered buildings where there was no to save, according to a Boston Globe analysis published Monday.

The newspaper examined federal



Shadow steps

Visitors to the Norm Dicks Government Center in Bremerton, Wash., walk up the 5th Street steps.

al investigative reports on 52 fires around the country that killed 80 firefighters from 1997 to 2004.

It found that in just 27 of the fires, four firefighters were able to get to the scene within 6 minutes, the minimum force recommended by the National Fire Protection Association. The manpower standard for safe and effective work at a building fire was met in only 18 of the fires.

There was a suspicion that someone might be inside the burning buildings at 14 of the fires, but only in six cases was there actually anyone inside, the Globe said.

Hip claim goes to court

VA RADFORD — A doctor who operated on the wrong hip of an 87-year-old woman is not solely to blame for the patient's subsequent ailments, the surgeon's lawyer told jurors.

Walt Peske said Ivory Andrews had a number of conditions before her broken hip, including a broken back, that contribute to her debilitated state but weren't caused by Dr. Kenneth Gray's error.

Andrews is seeking unspecified damages for the errant surgery, which was performed Dec. 16, 2003, and required a 45-day hospital stay.

DNA clears two

IL CHICAGO — More than a decade after two men were sentenced to life in prison for murder, prosecutors dismissed the charges Monday and set one of the men free, saying new DNA tests had failed to link them to the crime.

Dan Young Jr., 44, left the state prison in Pontiac on Monday. Harold Hill, 31, has three years left to serve for an unrelated armed robbery conviction, said Cook County State's Attorney spokesman John Gorman.

The charges were dropped after a series of new DNA tests failed to link either Hill or Young to the slaying of Kathy Morgan, 39, whose raped and strangled body was found in an abandoned building after a fire in October 1990, Gorman said.

Kentucky hero defended

KY PIKEVILLE — First, Daniel Boone's name was stripped from an eastern Kentucky parkway and replaced with that of a congressman. Then, the state legislature refused to put the famed frontiersman's name on an alternative highway.

It's no wonder his descendants are feeling slighted. "It's an insult to his family. It should be an insult to everyone who cares about the history of Kentucky," said Rochelle Cochran, president of the Boone Society, a national group of descendants.

She's launched a campaign to get Kentucky lawmakers to right what she sees as the wrong created in 2003 when former Gov. Paul Patton's administration changed the name of the Daniel Boone Parkway to the Hal Rogers Parkway in honor of a U.S. representative from Somerset.



Look, Ma, no hands! Roscoe, top, clings to a tree branch with his teeth after leaping up there while romping on the Keene State College campus in Keene, N.H. His buddy Lennox can't resist barking at him.



Frozen journey in Canandaigua, N.Y.

Lee Sorenson of Farmington, N.Y., walks the ice near the shore of Canandaigua Lake



Flipping over recess

ground in Longview, Wa.

Colby Williamson, 11, does a back flip off the back of Jose Ramirez, 11, as they and about 76 other kids played at the Lions Memorial Building playground in Longview, Wa.



That's gotta hurt

nated at the Caldwell Zoo in Tyler, Texas.

Tiffany Fuller, 17, of Bullard, Texas, reacts while holding a goat as it is vaccinated at the Caldwell Zoo in Tyler, Texas.



River of red

Lava from Kilauea volcano in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park enters the Pacific Ocean at dawn in Hawaii.



Frosty's debut

Cassandra Martin, center, helps her brother Chayton, 2, left, and sister Kali, 4, make a snowman in front of their home in Juneau, Alaska.

Race horses exhumed

KY VERSAILLES — Crews worked under a court order Wednesday to exhumate the remains of Wild-Eyed and Wicked, a champion saddlebred whose mysterious death has led to suspicions of sabotage in Kentucky's horse country.

The chestnut gelding — who twice won the saddlebred Triple Crown — was among five horses at the Double D Ranch in 2003 that had nearly identical circular wounds on the back of their left legs.

Veterinarians believe someone injected them with some kind of substance.

Can you hear me now?

ME AUGUSTA — Gov. Baldacci is launching an effort to expand cell phone access to the entire state. The Public Advocate's Office will be asking cell phone users to report on the location of dead zones via e-mail or phone. Baldacci said coverage is spotty and he often loses calls while driving from Augusta to Portland.

Cops arrested in bust

IL CHICAGO — Nine men, including four veteran Chicago police officers, were arrested and charged with stealing cocaine, money and guns from drug dealers. The arrests stem from a joint FBI and Chicago police department operation, launched in July after investigators noticed a Fraternal Order of Police sticker on a car near a drug site.

Nude calendar knocked

CA CARMEL — A dozen women who posed in the buff to raise money for a fire station thought their efforts would be welcomed, with a chuckle, by this cash-strapped city.

But much to their surprise, the more than \$40,000 raised by the Carmel Fire Belles' fund-raising calendar has been sharply rejected by city officials who say the cash is too hot to handle.

Accepting it, they said, could offend sensibilities and expose the city to costly sexual-harassment lawsuits.

"I feel belittled and insulted by the people responsible for bringing down a good cause and good people," calendar girl Paula Weber, 85, told city officials at a public hearing. The most senior of the models, Weber is pictured hiding coyly behind a pair of firefighters' coveralls.

Funeral dispute

TX BROWNSVILLE — A 30-year-old man accused of strangling his wife and then driving her body to Matamoros so he could claim she was killed by random violence in northern Mexico has asked to attend her funeral.

The attorney for Norberto Manzanares, charged with murder and jailed under a \$1 million bond, filed a request for his client to attend services of Gloria Manzanares, 30, said Cameron County District Attorney Armando Villalobos.

Villalobos said the county sheriff could grant Manzanares permis-

sion; no decision had been made late Wednesday.

Bill for felons to vote

MD ANNAPOLIS — Delegate Salima Marriot, a Baltimore Democrat, introduced legislation that would allow all convicted felons to vote after they're released from prison. Current Maryland law calls for waiting periods before voting rights can be restored, and the length depends on the type of offense. Two previous efforts to change the law have failed.

Overcharging Medicaid

AL MONTGOMERY — The state filed a lawsuit accusing 79 drug companies of causing massive overcharges to the Alabama Medicaid Agency that siphoned away hundreds of millions of dollars from other health services for the needy.

The suit accuses the companies of intentionally misreporting average wholesale prices.

Attorney General Troy King said the practice artificially raised the cost Alabama Medicaid pays for drugs.

Same-sex unions ban

ID BOISE — For the second consecutive year, a proposal to ban same-sex marriages failed to pass the Idaho Senate. With 14 senators voting against the bill, conservative supporters were unable to muster the two-thirds majority needed to send the proposal to voters. The amendment would have invalidated any type of marriage or civil union except those between a man and a woman.

Failure to salute

MI DETROIT — Twenty-six police recruits are getting an extra lesson at the training academy this week: Salute the chief. When Chief Elia Bully-Cummings recently met with the recruits, they failed to salute her, as called for in department rules. She ordered an extra week of training.

The chief came into a room and no one came to attention," police spokesman James Tate said. The rookie cops were also slow to salute the chief at their graduation last Thursday, he said.

Assault charge reduced

KY MURRAY — Charges were reduced against a teacher's aide who was videotaped holding a 13-year-old boy off the ground and against a wall at a Kentucky school for at-risk kids.

Court officials said the second-degree assault charge against Charles Parrott was reduced to a misdemeanor on Monday.

Defense attorney Rick Lamkin said the boy's medical records do not show serious physical injury. Parrott, 42, was caught on surveillance video holding Dimitri Ross off the ground on Dec. 13, and the footage has been shown on national television.

Parrott has said he was restraining the student because he threatened other students in the classroom.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

Welcome to 'Blake Shelton's Bar & Grill'

BY JOHN HAYES

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Blake Shelton didn't like "Austin." The country ballad by David Kent and Kirsti Manna, about love lost and regained over a telephone answering machine, was offered on a demo as a sluggish piano tune.

Shelton's record company practically insisted that he take it home and listen to it again, learn to play it on guitar and make it his own.

Shelton reluctantly took the advice and scored his first Top 10 country hit.

Previously, the singer-songwriter had passed on "Ten Rounds with Jose Cuervo," which Tracy Byrd turned into a smash hit, and "I Just Want to Be Mad," which did pretty well for Terri Clark.

But Shelton isn't whining or wishing for second chances. "Those songs just didn't connect with me," he says, in a recent phone interview. "I passed on a lot of songs. If I decided to go back, I still wouldn't sing them."

A solid songwriter in his own right, Shelton is getting the hang of playing Nashville's "name that tune," a painstakingly slow and deliberate game in which writers try to get their songs placed with the stars most likely to turn them into hits. Once an artist "names that tune" by claiming a "hold" on it, protocol demands that the song be considered off-limits for anybody else to record, whether or not the singer who laid claim promptly takes it into the studio.

After "Austin," Shelton moved to Warner Bros. and took a long, hard look at his career. "I brought in a wish list of songs I wished I would have been able to record," he says.

"They were mostly Merle Haggard songs, John Anderson songs, Hank Williams Jr. songs ...

songs that sounded like they could be played on a jukebox somewhere. We noticed that they were all drinking songs and realized that maybe this is something we need to do on the next album."

Welcome to "Blake Shelton's Bar & Grill," a honky-tonk joint off the beaten path where most everything on the menu comes with hot sauce, a shot and a beer. Savvy enough to realize that country radio prefers the musical equivalent of Zima, Shelton, in his old-school traditionalist way, says he'd rather pound tequila.

"I would say that radio isn't looking for the next big traditional country hit," he says. "A lot of what you hear on the radio today is because they don't want to offend anybody. We got to the point where Nashville is making records that they think radio will play instead of records that we want to play. Now we're beginning to hear a good mix of outlaws and hard-core country and pop stuff. I think Nashville is figuring out that radio will play a song wherever it comes from as long as it's a hit."

That's why on "Bar & Grill" he's not afraid to join in the stylish Jimmy Buffett island party with Paul Overstreet and Rory Feek's "Some Beach," revisit Conway Twitty's classic "Good-bye Time," and get gritty on Mary Gauthier's desolate "I Drink."

Shelton throws in his own two cents on "Love Gets in the Way," and gets slightly raunchy on Overstreet's "Cotton Pickin' Time," in which a pair of skinny-dipping lovers find some afternoon delight.

"It's up tempo," he says, laughing, "and about as inbred, red-neck country as you can get."

Blake Shelton performs in Oshkosh, Wis., in June 2003.



Usher leads Soul Train nods

Usher collected a leading five nominations Tuesday for the annual Soul Train Music Awards.

The R&B sensation received bids for best male R&B-soul album for "Confessions," and best male R&B-soul single for "Confessions Part II." "My Boo," his duet with Alicia Keys, also earned him the soul diva a nomination.

Usher's work with rappers Ludacris and Lil Jon also got him nominations for best R&B-soul or rap music video and best R&B-soul or rap dance cut for the song "Yeah!"

Usher swept the American Music Awards with four honors and has eight



Usher

nominations for the upcoming Grammys. Sexy newcomer Ciara, who burst onto the charts last year with her album "Goodies," garnered four nominations, including best female R&B-soul album and best R&B-soul or rap by a new artist.

Alicia Keys' album "The Diary of Alicia Keys" was also up for best R&B-soul album by a female. Her song "If I Ain't Got You" received a best single nod in the female R&B-soul category.

The awards will be presented during a ceremony Feb. 28 at Paramount Studios in Hollywood.

Temp gets Rather job

Dan Rather will be replaced with veteran "Face the Nation" host Bob Schieffer on an interim basis when Rather steps down next month as CBS Evening News anchor. Schieffer's selection was confirmed Wednesday by CBS News president Andrew Heyward. He would be a bridge toward a new format for the evening news,

mirrored in last place in the ratings behind NBC and ABC.

CBS chief Leslie Moonves said last month that he was probably going to install a multi-anchor format on the broadcast.

Schieffer was the moderator last fall for one of the three presidential debates between President Bush and John Kerry.

Meanwhile, Martha Stewart will star in a spin-off of "The Apprentice" after she's released from prison in March, NBC announced Wednesday.

"Americans love to see people make good after being pushed down," said Mark Burnett, producer of "The Apprentice."

He's Berra, Berra angry

New York Yankees legend and AFLAC TV ad icon Yogi Berra has filed a \$10 million lawsuit against TBS, claiming the cable television network sullied his name by using it in a racy advertisement for its "Sex and the City" reruns, reports The Associated Press.

Berra's lawsuit, filed in Manhattan's state Supreme Court last week, said the ad caused "severe damage to his reputation" with its reference to Kim Cattrall's sexually promiscuous character, Samantha.

The offending ad, Berra's attorneys said, queried readers about the definition of "yogasm." Possible definitions: (a) a type of yo-yo trick, (b) sex with Yogi Berra and (c) what Samantha has with a guy from yoga class. The answer is (c).

The reference to sex made in connection with the 79-year-old Berra "engenders a moral taint that has damaged his otherwise spotless reputation," according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit seeks \$10 million for use of Berra's name without permission.

Photos and stories from wire reports



Berra



KEY: Sunny Pt. Clsdy Mostly clsdy Cloudy Showers Tstorms Rain Rain/snow Snow Cold frnt Warm frnt Trough Occluded frnt Stly frnt Low High

AFRICA

| | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|-----------|----|----|
| Capa Town | 78 | 65 | Mogadishu | 88 | 74 |
| Dakar | 78 | 65 | Nairobi | 82 | 69 |
| Freeport | 88 | 73 | Rabat | 61 | 45 |
| Kinshasa | 87 | 73 | Tripoli | 67 | 52 |

THE WORLD

| | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|-----------|----|----|
| Amsterdam | 41 | 28 | Manila | 84 | 75 |
| Beijing | 31 | 20 | Montreal | 66 | 47 |
| Bombay | 86 | 68 | Riyadh | 73 | 46 |
| Buenos Aires | 67 | 51 | Sao Paulo | 82 | 72 |
| Buenos Aires | 67 | 51 | Sao Paulo | 82 | 72 |
| Buenos Aires | 67 | 51 | Sao Paulo | 82 | 72 |
| Buenos Aires | 67 | 51 | Sao Paulo | 82 | 72 |
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| Buenos Aires | 67 | 51 | Sao Paulo | 82 | 72 |

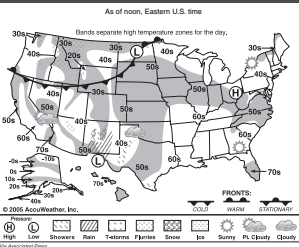
TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

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|--------|----|----|-------|----|----|
| Alaska | 51 | 44 | Idaho | 45 | 32 |
| Alaska | 51 | 44 | Idaho | 45 | 32 |
| Alaska | 51 | 44 | Idaho | 45 | 32 |
| Alaska | 51 | 44 | Idaho | 45 | 32 |
| Alaska | 51 | 44 | Idaho | 45 | 32 |
| Alaska | 51 | 44 | Idaho | 45 | 32 |
| Alaska | 51 | 44 | Idaho | 45 | 32 |
| Alaska | 51 | 44 | Idaho | 45 | 32 |
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| Alaska | 51 | 44 | Idaho | 45 | 32 |

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|---------|----|----|----|----------|----|----|
| Hamburg | 49 | 25 | Ct | New York | 45 | 32 |
| Hamburg | 49 | 25 | Ct | New York | 45 | 32 |
| Hamburg | 49 | 25 | Ct | New York | 45 | 32 |
| Hamburg | 49 | 25 | Ct | New York | 45 | 32 |
| Hamburg | 49 | 25 | Ct | New York | 45 | 32 |
| Hamburg | 49 | 25 | Ct | New York | 45 | 32 |
| Hamburg | 49 | 25 | Ct | New York | 45 | 32 |
| Hamburg | 49 | 25 | Ct | New York | 45 | 32 |
| Hamburg | 49 | 25 | Ct | New York | 45 | 32 |
| Hamburg | 49 | 25 | Ct | New York | 45 | 32 |

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|-----------|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|
| Nashville | 61 | 38 | Or | San Diego | 50 | 44 |
| Nashville | 61 | 38 | Or | San Diego | 50 | 44 |
| Nashville | 61 | 38 | Or | San Diego | 50 | 44 |
| Nashville | 61 | 38 | Or | San Diego | 50 | 44 |
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| Nashville | 61 | 38 | Or | San Diego | 50 | 44 |
| Nashville | 61 | 38 | Or | San Diego | 50 | 44 |
| Nashville | 61 | 38 | Or | San Diego | 50 | 44 |
| Nashville | 61 | 38 | Or | San Diego | 50 | 44 |
| Nashville | 61 | 38 | Or | San Diego | 50 | 44 |

THE UNITED STATES TODAY



EUROPEAN FORECAST

BeneLux: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s to lower 40s. Sunday lows in the upper 20s to mid-30s.

Britain, Ireland: Cloudy with morning rain and snow showers. Highs in the upper 30s to lower 40s. Sunday lows in the upper 20s to mid-30s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly to mostly cloudy with morning fog. Highs in the mid-30s. Sunday lows in the lower 20s.

France: Partly to mostly cloudy with morning rain showers. Highs in the upper 40s to upper 50s. Sunday lows in the upper 20s to lower 30s.

Northern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s. Sunday lows in the 20s.

Southern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the 30s. Sunday lows in the 20s.

Hungary: Partly cloudy. Highs in the 20s. Sunday lows in the teens.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s to lower 50s. Sunday lows in the upper 20s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s to lower 50s. Sunday lows in the upper 20s to mid-30s.

Kosovo: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 30s. Sunday lows in the upper teens to lower 20s.

Norway: Cloudy with rain and snow showers. Highs in the lower 40s. Sunday lows in the 20s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly to mostly cloudy with rain-showers and isolated thunderstorms to the north and partly cloudy to the south. Highs in the lower 50s to lower 60s. Sunday lows in the 30s, except 20s inland.

Turkey: Cloudy with rain and snow showers to the north and mostly cloudy to the south. Highs in the upper 30s to the north and inland, with lower 50s to the west and south. Sunday lows in the lower 20s to the north and inland, with upper 30s to lower 40s to the west and south.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at: <https://www.sembach.af.mil>
<http://www.public.sembach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON

| | Today | Tomorrow |
|---------------------|-------|----------|
| Sunrise (Baghdad) | 0655 | 0655 |
| Sunrise (Frankfurt) | 0754 | 0742 |
| Sunset (Baghdad) | 1740 | 1740 |
| Sunset (Frankfurt) | 1727 | 1729 |

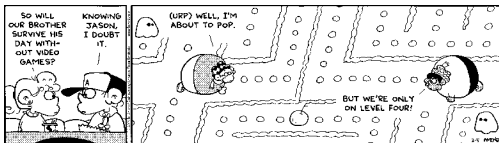
Last day Feb 05 New moon Feb 08 First day Feb 06 Full moon Feb 09

Scheduled to **ETS** or **PCS**

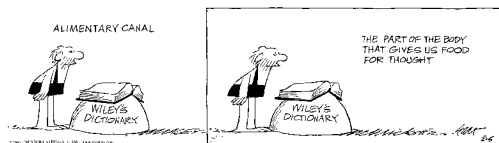
Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

STARS & STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

Fotrot



B.C.



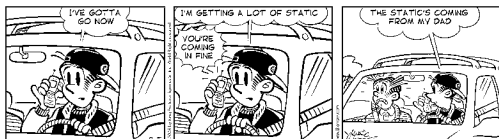
Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



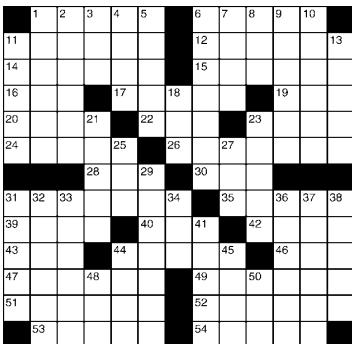
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



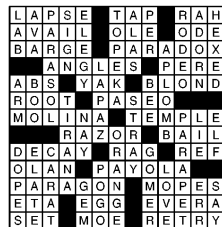
Across

- 1 Spills the beans
- 6 An arm and a leg
- 11 Roughly 90 days
- 12 Bobolink's cousin
- 14 Nautical
- 15 Military pilots
- 16 "Hail, Caesar!"
- 17 Vengeful group of moviedom
- 19 Foundation
- 20 Take it from the top
- 22 Montmartre monarch
- 23 Host Letterman
- 24 Discovery
- 26 Laid a lot
- 28 Shad source
- 30 Something to chew on
- 31 Like Hester's "A"
- 35 Bas-relief material
- 39 Huff and puff
- 40 Illuminated
- 42 Lean-to
- 43 William Tell's home
- 44 "The Crucible" setting
- 46 Difficult, to a Cockney
- 47 Stay
- 49 Hitchcock movie
- 51 "Hogan's Heroes" locale
- 52 —mâché

Down

- 53 Viscous stuff
- 54 Thompson and Lazarus
- 21 Impossible to miss
- 23 Capitol's caps
- 25 Right angle
- 27 Prison
- 29 Olio
- 31 They jingle-jangle
- 32 Insertion marks
- 33 Critter
- 34 Before
- 36 Singer Twain
- 37 Sitcom, e.g.
- 38 Stranger
- 41 Arizona city
- 44 Thailand, once
- 45 Title of respect
- 48 "The Greatest"
- 50 Record speed

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-5

CRYPTOQUIP

K F D E W C W M D C W Z Z
 X D Z U D P D X F W M Y Z L
 M G V B N T V M . T E D O T L Z A
 M W G F D N F X T K M W N
 W Y D P D X B U N O F .
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: I WOULD DEMONSTRATE HOW TO THREAD A NEEDLE, BUT YOU'D PROBABLY MISS THE POINT.
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: Z equals L

Sleeping situation creates rift

Dear Abby: My son, "Bobby," and his girlfriend, "Claire," had a baby two weeks ago. Bobby lives with us and Claire lives with her parents, although they hope to get a place together soon.

Bobby and Claire are having a problem deciding on where to sleep. They each want to be with their family. They were going to alternate one night at each house, but Claire's mom said it wouldn't be good for the baby, as the baby needs a regular place to live. Is it bad for a newborn to switch beds?

Both houses are equipped with all the baby things the little one needs.

What can I do to help them resolve their issues without hurting anyone's feelings?

My son wants to be in Claire's and the baby's lives. I just don't know how to help him.

Dear Abby



— Wants to Help in Ohio
Dear Abby: I want to help. The best favor you could do for Bobby and Claire would be to encourage both of them to complete their education before moving anywhere.

The fact that your son and his girlfriend can't decide which house to sleep in should be a clue that neither he nor she is mature enough to be moving out on their own.

Dear Abby: I recently left my husband of 14 years, "Derrick." Now all of the people I thought were my friends will no longer associate with me. Derrick and I were very good at pretending, so everyone thought we had a great marriage.

Now that I have moved out, they all think I just decided one morning that I no longer wanted to be married. What they do

not know is that Derrick raped me and put me through 12 years of emotional and verbal abuse.

During one of the marriage counseling sessions I mentioned the rape, and he turned to me and said, "That was 12 years ago. Get over it."

That was when I decided to file for divorce.

Should I go to my friends and explain it to them, or just find new friends?

— Lonely in Wichita

Dear Abby: If it will make you feel better, go to your friends and explain the truth.

However, if they were truly your friends they would already be supporting you — and, in my opinion, you would be better off without them.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can email to Abby on the internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TELIE

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TARAP

TEFNIC

SKENIC

www.jumble.com

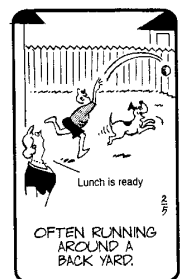
A: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: PRINT BEFOG GAMBLE ERMINE

Answer: Why the window washer took a break — FOR "PAINE" RELIEF

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

Find friend to handle funeral plans

Dear Annie: I am an elderly bachelor and I have one sister, and I asked her to take care of my funeral arrangements when I go. I stressed repeatedly that that is all I want her to do. I set up arrangements to pay for everything.

Since then, my sister repeatedly has done everything I have asked her not to do. She has taken it upon herself to sign for my mail and call my doctors without asking. She criticizes my friends and other family members, and is rude, arrogant, controlling and greedy. Her own children won't talk to her.

I am totally capable of looking after myself. I thought that she had changed after all these years, but I was wrong. I have tried talking to her, but nothing sinks in. Consequently, I am going to have to cancel all the arrangements I made regarding the funeral, will, etc., which I hate to do, but I guess I have no

Annie's Mailbox



choice. My sister is driving me up the wall. What do you think I should do?

— Sam in Fargo, N.D.
Dear Sam: Do you have a close friend, perhaps a lawyer or a banker, who can take care of these details for you? If so, arrange it and inform your busy-body sister that she will no longer be troubled with these issues because you have removed her from the process. This may be extra work for you, but it will be worth it. Good luck.

Dear Annie: I read with great interest the letter from "Tired of Breathing Through My Mouth," who said his wife emitted an unusual scent. Consulting her physician was excellent advice, but the odor could be from a change in laundry detergent or fabric softener.

My father was an immaculate man but started smelling very strange.

After some detective work, we found out that my mother had changed from her regular fabric softener to a cheaper one. It seems that his natural body scent, combined with the new softener, was worse than a skunk in a patch of stinkweed. After rewashing his entire wardrobe, Dad was back to his sweet-smelling self.

— Cheap Isn't Everything
Dear Cheap: Thanks for the suggestion. Here is another. From Diamondhead, Miss.: I'm a retired chemist and can tell him his wife's odor is probably from her hairspray, mousses or make-up. I've noticed a similar smell on my wife and several other women in elevators and in church. As a test, his wife should wash her hair thoroughly and not put anything in it for a couple of days.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"Mommy, my room is all cleaned up! Come and look, it might not last!"

GRAFFITI!

CAN YOU WIN A PILLSBURY BAKE-OFF WITH A BETTY CROCKER RECIPE?

NKA 2/6

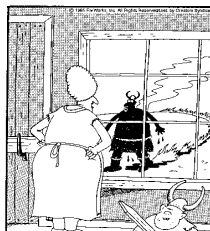
Dennis the Menace



"WHY CAN'T WE EAT PEPPER FIRST, THEN WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT SWIN' ROOM FOR IT?"

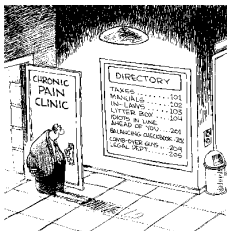
© Gary Larson

The Far Side



"Well, guess who's home a little early from today's castle siege?"

Non Sequitur



26 21

SCOREBOARD

AFN-FM & Radio

Saturday
AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—Golf: FBR open, second round (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.—NBA: Houston at Minnesota; Kansas at Nebraska.

AFN-Atlantic, 7 p.m.—College basketball: Temple TBD.

AFN-Atlantic, 7 p.m.—College basketball: Georgia Tech at Duke.

AFN-Atlantic, 7 p.m.—College basketball: Georgia Washington at Temple.

AFN-Atlantic, 9 p.m.—College basketball: Temple TBD.

AFN-Atlantic, 9 p.m.—College basketball: Cincinnati at Charlotte.

AFN-Atlantic, 11 p.m.—College basketball: UCLA at Washington.

Sunday

AFN-Pacific, 1:30 a.m.—NBA: Orlando at Cleveland.

AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.—College basketball: Notre Dame at Syracuse.

AFN-Sports, 6 a.m.—College football: College at Star Skills Challenge (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 7 a.m.—Winter Games (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.—Golf: FBR open, second round (dtd).

AFN-Atlantic and Pacific, 3 p.m.—NFL: New York Jets at Tampa Bay.

AFN-Atlantic and Pacific, 7 p.m.—NFL: Best Damn Sports Show (dtd).

AFN-Atlantic, Pacific and Sports, 8 Show.—NFL: Super Bowl Sunday Pregame Show.

AFN-Radio, 10 p.m.—NFL: Super Bowl XXXIX pregame.

All times are Central European Time (dtd). Indicated broadcast. All listings are subject to change without notice.

Pro football

NFL playoffs

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 29
 St. Louis 27, Seattle 20

Sunday, Jan. 30
 N.Y. Jets 20, Denver 17

Divisional Playoffs
Sunday, Jan. 30
 Pittsburgh 26, N.Y. Jets 15

Sunday, Jan. 31
 Philadelphia 27, Minnesota 14

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 31
 Philadelphia 27, Atlanta 10

Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 6
 Jacksonville 27, New England 24

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 rated

Thursday
 Illinois (22-2) did not play. Next: vs. Indiana.

Friday
 North Carolina (18-2) did not play. Next: North Carolina State 95-71. Next: at Florida State, Sunday.

Saturday
 Kansas (17-1) did not play. Next: at Nebraska, Saturday.

Sunday
 Duke (16-2) did not play. Next: No. 25 Georgia Tech at Wake Forest.

Monday
 Wake Forest (18-2) did not play. Next: at Virginia Tech, Saturday.

Tuesday
 Syracuse (20-2) did not play. Next: vs. Louisville, Saturday.

Wednesday
 Louisville (19-2) did not play. Next: at Alabama, Saturday.

Thursday
 Oklahoma State (15-2) did not play. Next: at Wake Forest, Saturday.

Friday
 Oklahoma (15-3) did not play. Next: at Florida State, Saturday.

Saturday
 Michigan State (14-4) did not play. Next: at Iowa State, Saturday.

Sunday
 Texas (15-2) did not play. Next: South Carolina 99-88. Next: vs. UCLA, Saturday.

Monday
 Arizona (28-4) did not play. Next: vs. Texas Tech, Saturday.

Tuesday
 Wake Forest (15-3) did not play. Next: at West Virginia, Saturday.

Wednesday
 Texas Tech (15-3) did not play. Next: at Oklahoma State, Saturday.

Thursday
 Oklahoma State (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. St. John's, Saturday.

Friday
 Oklahoma (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. Providence, Saturday.

Saturday
 Texas Tech (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 4 Duke, Saturday.

Thursday's men's scores

EAST
 Adelphi 63, Concordia, N.J. 45

Alderson-Brown 52, Fairmont St. 74

Bard 73, Mass. College 74

Bloomfield 67, Sciences, Pa. 69

Calicut 61, St. John's 74

Caldwell 61, Penn. State 66

Clarkson 71, Colby-Sawyer 52

Concord 84, Charleston, W.V. 69

Cornell 71, Ithaca 70

Endicott 69, New England Coll. 73

Franklin Pierce 66, Elm 63

Franklin Pierce 66, Elm 63

Keene 51, Connecticut 54

Marquette 71, Boston College 61

Monmouth, N.J. 75, Long Island U. 65

North 85, Dartmouth, N.H. 71

Plymouth St. 57, Johnson & Wales, R.I. 72

Quinnipiac 68, Sacred Heart 63

Robert Morris 68, St. Francis, N.Y. 67

Robert Morris 68, St. Francis, N.Y. 67

Salerno 68, St. Francis, N.Y. 67

Shepherd 75, Ohio Valley 70

St. Thomas Aquinas 70, Philadelphia 67

TUFS 78, Mass. Dartmouth 66

WVU 78, Mass. Dartmouth 66

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WVU 78, Mass. Dartmouth 66

Sul Ross 81, 144, Concordia-Austin 101

Texas Tech 81, 144, Concordia-Austin 101

UTEP 54, 76

W. Texas A&M 74, 76

Arizona 97, California 76

Arizona 97, California 76

Arizona 97, California 76

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Delaware 68, George Mason 40

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Shinshu Asagawa (Japan), def. Elena Demetrescu (R. Russia), 6-4, 6-3

Lindsayavenport (United States), def. Hana Buncikova (Czech Republic), 6-1, 6-2

Ayona Bostrom (Russia), def. Elena Demetrescu (R. Russia), 6-1, 6-2

Delia Hantuchova (Slovakia), 7-6 (4), 7-6 (2)

Volvo Women's Open

Friday
At Dunes Desert Puttaya
Sweden: Hard-Open

Purse: \$170,000 (Tie IV)
Sweden: Hard-Open

Singles
 Evgeniya Linskaya, Russia, def. Vera Zvonkova, Russia, 6-4, 6-3

Cocchis Martini (Spain), vs. Shahar Pe'er, Israel, 6-4, 6-3

Anna-Lena Groenefeld (7, Germany), def. Ayona Bostrom (Russia), 6-1, 6-2

Virginia Ruano Pascual (8, Spain), def. Maria Serra, Spain, 6-2, 6-1

Golf

Friday
At TPC at Scottsdale
Scottsdale, Ariz.

Purse: \$52 million
Yardage: 7,216 Par 71 (58-30)

Completed First Round

Dudley Hay, 64-3

Justin Leonard, 64-3

Hunter Mahan, 64-3

Franklin D. Jones, 64-3

Kevin Na, 64-3

Brandt Snedeker, 64-3

Chris DiMarco, 64-3

Michael Allen, 64-3

John Hollins, 64-3

Steve Flesher, 64-3

Kennerly, 64-3

David P. Danks, 64-3

Hockey Classic

Friday
At Royal Bank Ice Club
Melbourne, Australia

Second Round

Colin Montgomerie, Scotland, 68-65

Justin Leonard, 68-65

Trevor Immelman, South Africa, 68-65

James Hahn, 68-65

Henrik Stenson, Sweden, 68-65

James Hahn, 68-65

Craig Parry, New Zealand, 68-65

Robert P. O'Leary, Australia, 68-65

Robert P. O'Leary, Australia, 68-65

Robert P. O'Leary, Australia, 68-65

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Robert P. O'Leary, Australia, 68-65

Deals

Seeing Carolina blue

North Carolina impressive in romp over N.C. State

The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Herb Sendek saw his first up-close look at North Carolina freshman Marvin Williams. The North Carolina State coach saw plenty.

He is just an awesome talent, he really is," Sendek said. "I don't think there is anything he can't do."

Williams had a season-high 20 points on a wide array of shots, Rashad McCants scored 18 and Sean May had 16 points and 14 rebounds as the second-ranked

Tar Heels beat North Carolina State 95-71 on Thursday night.

With illness going through the team, Williams joined coach Roy Williams in taking intravenous fluids before the game.

"He got it on Saturday night, and I didn't get it until Monday night," Roy Williams said. "Hopefully, three days from now, I'll look like Marvin."

Raymond Felton had 10 assists for North Carolina (18-2, 7-1 Atlantic Coast Conference), which has won 15 of 19 leading scorer Jawad Williams finishing with six points, 10 under his average.

"I'm comfortable," Marvin Williams said. "I feel like I can shoot and take them when they're open."

The Tar Heels improved to 11-0 at home with a familiar formula to an early lead, then close it out with a dominant run early in the second half.

This time, they shot 66 percent and led 51-32 at halftime, with Marvin May and Marvin Williams already in double figures.

"North Carolina executed to a T," N.C. State guard Julius Hodge said. "Guys made big plays for them."

"Once you let a team like that get a head start on you, there's no turning back."

Hodge had 18 points, but couldn't keep the Wolfpack (13-8, 3-5) from falling to 3-7 in their past 10 games. The trouble started when point guard Tony Bethel contracted colitis after a two-week battle with the flu, and missed four games.

He only returned to the lineup full-time in N.C. State's previous game against Clemson, and in this one, Bethel played 35 minutes and scored 16 points.

"The guys are battling and really have a terrific mind-set," Sendek said. "Our group has been through a tremendous amount. The resiliency and character has been admirable, it really has."

Even with Bethel, the Wolfpack had few answers for the Tar Heels. Reserve David Noel finished off a steal in the first half with a reverse dunk, and Marvin Williams might have topped him with a highlight-package dunk during the big spurt in the final 20 minutes.

He capped nine straight points with a breakaway slam that featured him posing in the air with his left hand behind his head.

Later, with walk-ons and other little-used players finishing out the blowout, several teammates were mimicking Williams' move on the bench.

"At the beginning of the season, I think he was a little hesitant to take some shots and now he's just playing," May said.

"Nah, he's starting to realize that he has a little more freedom

and can do more things. The kid's unbelievable."

N.C. State closed to 55-43 early in the second half after Hodge made a free throw, but got no closer. May had a layup on a nice assist from Felton, and Melvin Scott swished a three-pointer before Marvin Williams' dunk.

He added two free throws a couple of minutes later to make it 70-48, and the rout was on.

No. 13 Washington 99, Southern California 69: At Seattle, Tre Simmons scored 29 points and Jamal Williams added 21 to lead the Huskies (18-3, 8-2 Pac-10). Will Conroy added 13 points and 10 assists for Washington, which forced 24 turnovers.

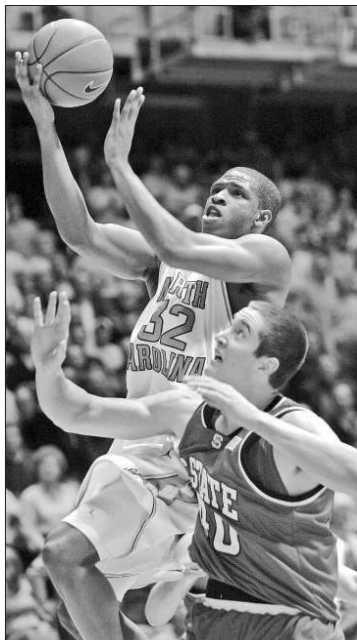
Lodrick Stewart had 13 points for the Trojans (9-12, 2-8), who have lost three straight.

No. 14 Arizona 97, California 76: At Tucson, Shannon Frye had 20 points and seven rebounds for the Wildcats (18-4, 8-2), who won for the 15th time in 17 games and bounced back from a loss to Washington State.

Richard Midgley had 18 points and six rebounds for the Golden Bears (11-9, 4-6), who had won three straight.

No. 17 Gonzaga 68, Saint Mary's 63: At Spokane, Derek Rayno and Adam Morrison each scored 19 points for the Bulldogs (16-4, 6-2 West Coast Conference), who held Saint Mary's to two field goals over the final 12 minutes in avenging a loss earlier this season.

E.J. Rowland had 18 points for the Gaels (19-6, 6-2), who were trying to become the first WCC team to beat Gonzaga twice in a season since San Diego in 1997.



North Carolina's Rashad McCants (32) drives for a layup over North Carolina State's Andrew Brackman during the first half of Thursday night's game at Chapel Hill, N.C. North Carolina won 96-71.

Kostelic holds off Paerson in combined

BY ERICA BULMAN

The Associated Press

SANTA CATERINA VALFURVA, Italy — Olympic champion Janica Kostelic capped a remarkable comeback from illness and injury Friday, retaining her world ski championships combined title after a spirited battle with Sweden's Anna Paerson.

Kostelic, who had her thyroid gland removed last season and endured several knee operations, completed the morning downhill leg and the two afternoon slalom runs in a combined time of 2 minutes, 53.70 seconds.

"The gold medal means a lot to me. To be able to defend it even though I had no expectations here is wonderful," the Croat said. "My first slalom run was so-so but, second run I gave everything I had and I won."

Paerson, who nipped at Kostelic's heels the entire day, took the silver in 2:55.15. The Swede, who won the super-G gold medal last weekend, was 66 behind Kostelic after the downhill run, and then narrowed the gap to 37 after posting the fastest opening slalom leg. However, she was no match for Kostelic in the second slalom run.

"This is my first medal in the



American Resi Stiegler, wearing a helmet adorned with mouse ears, skis on Friday in the women's combined in the world championships.

combination, and I think it's wonderful," said Paerson, who was still without her usual support crew and was forced to have someone new and unfamiliar wax her skis for her. "I was a little nervous today."

Austria's Marlies Schild claimed bronze in 2:56.40. A technical specialist, Schild was 19th after the downhill but climbed to fourth after the opening slalom run. She then moved into third for a medal after American Lindsey

Kildow was unable to maintain her position.

"I'm overjoyed. I didn't have anything more inside to give," Schild said. "After the downhill, I was a bit depressed and then I thought, 'Just go all out in the slalom.' That's why the medal means so much to me. It was mentally a very tough race. In the combined, you have to remain focused for such a long time."

The victory helped make up for Kostelic's recent disappointment, when she skied out in the opening run of the slalom in Zagreb in front of a massive home crowd attending Croatia's first World Cup race.

Kostelic collected gold medals in the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics in slalom, giant slalom and combined event. However, she's been struggling to return to form after missing last season because of her many malaises.

She skipped the super-G event last weekend to prepare for the combined.

Kostelic won the combined in the 2003 worlds in St. Moritz, Switzerland.

Paerson could try to medal in all disciplines here but she has yet to announce whether she will compete in the women's open downhill on Sunday.

World Championships

Women's Combined

Deborah Compagnoni course

Santa Caterina Valfurva, Italy

| After downhill and two slalom legs (run times in parentheses): | |
|--|--|
| 1. Janica Kostelic, Croatia, 2 minutes, 53.70 seconds (1:31.31-41:16-41.23). | |
| 2. Anna Paerson, Sweden, 2:55.15 (1:31.97-40:47-42.31). | |
| 3. Marlies Schild, Austria, 2:56.40 (1:33.42-41:17-42.10). | |
| 4. Lindsey Kildow, United States, 2:56.60 (1:33.55-41:17-42.10). | |
| 5. Saska Zahrobska, Czech Republic, 2:57.44 (1:34.44-41:28-42.35). | |
| 6. Kathrin Zettel, Austria, 2:57.44 (1:33.44-41:28-42.35). | |
| 7. Martina Erni, Germany, 2:57.53 (1:33.44-41:28-42.35). | |
| 8. Elisabeth Goergl, Austria, 2:57.53 (1:33.44-41:28-42.35). | |
| 9. Julia Mancuso, United States, 2:57.61 (1:33.44-41:28-42.35). | |
| 10. Tina Maze, Slovenia, 2:57.62 (1:33.44-41:28-42.35). | |
| 11. Jessica Lindell-Vikary, Sweden, 2:58.05 (1:33.44-41:28-42.35). | |
| 12. Britta Ott, Austria, 2:58.05 (1:33.44-41:28-42.35). | |
| 13. Jessica Clark, Canada, 2:58.05 (1:33.44-41:28-42.35). | |
| 14. Emily Brydon, Canada, 2:59.51 (1:33.44-41:28-42.35). | |
| 15. Marlies Schild, Switzerland, 2:59.51 (1:33.44-41:28-42.35). | |
| 16. Monika Bergmann-Schmuderer, Germany, 2:59.76 (1:33.44-41:28-42.35). | |
| 17. Lucie Hrstova, Czech Republic, 3:00.05 (1:35.06-41:14-43.85). | |
| 18. Franziska Sonderegger, Switzerland, 3:00.36 (1:33.44-41:28-42.35). | |
| 19. Jekaterina Sorokina, Serbia and Montenegro, 3:00.82 (1:37.24-36:34-44.80). | |
| 20. Anna Paerson, Italy, 3:00.32 (1:33.10-32:33-44.89). | |
| 21. Resi Stiegler, United States, 3:00.63 (1:34.31-41:40-44.72). | |

Also
Janette Hangl, Sweden, failed to finish the downhill.
Isolde Kostner, Italy, and Kelly Vandeweyer, Canada, did not start the slalom.
Renata Gotsche, Austria, Daniela Coccia, Italy, and Christine Brann, failed to finish the first slalom run.
20. Anna Paerson, Italy, 3:00.32 (1:33.10-32:33-44.89).
21. Resi Stiegler, United States, 3:00.63 (1:34.31-41:40-44.72).

From daydream team to living a dream

Davis, fresh from tour in Iraq, is back playing college basketball

BY PETE IACOBELLI

The Associated Press

GREENWOOD, S.C. — Lander University guard Jason Davis was just happy to be back on the basketball court.

He was playing the game he enjoys, the game he'd sometimes think about while on Marine patrol duty in Mosul or during long, frigid nights camped in the Iraqi desert.

And suddenly, he felt nervous. "Good Lord, are those butterflies?" Davis, nicknamed "Rambo," remembered thinking before Division II Lander's opener with Wingate in November.

Truth is, Davis has handled situations much more difficult than splitting a double team or breaking a press. Davis, a lance corporal in the Marine Corps, was stationed in Iraq from April to June 2003.

He provided security, went on patrols and sometimes searched from house to house for insurgents in hot spots such as Tikrit, Basra and Mosul during the early days of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I would say it changed me," Davis said.

He parts with wartime details sparingly. Lander coach Bruce

Evans didn't bring it up to other players and didn't use it as an object lesson or hail Davis as a hero deserving of respect — even though that's how Evans feels.

"I took Lander's players several weeks, Evans said, before delving into Davis' time in Iraq.

"I don't talk about it much," Davis said.

Davis, from Fountain Inn, S.C., was a basketball star at Hillcrest High who's only goal in life was to play college ball. He signed on at Anderson College, but didn't like the direction his life was headed after his freshman season in 2001. He hadn't done as well academically as he hoped, and knew something had to change.

Swept up in the patriotism that followed the Sept. 11 terror attacks, Davis joined the Marines — much to the shock of friends and family.

"My grandma said I was crazy," Davis recalled. "Friends told me, 'You've got talent, why are you doing this?'"

Davis endured 13 weeks at Parris Island in the fall of 2002. As much as he wanted the challenge of Marine boot camp, he would ask himself, "Why this?"

"There I was a year ago in college. All I had to do was go to class and play basketball," Davis

said. "Now, I'm sleeping out in the rain."

Davis persevered, graduating in January 2003. After infantry training in Camp Lejeune, N.C., Davis was shipped to Iraq with the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines when the U.S. military operation began.

"We kind of knew what was going to happen," Davis said. "That's what we were training for."

Davis was continually on patrol, raiding houses or securing ammunition and supply points for U.S. personnel. Days were sticky and hot, nights chilly and edgy.

Firefights were routine — and something he has trouble discussing to this day.

"I can't talk about that," he said quietly, eyes turning toward the floor.

Still, Davis couldn't give up his dream of college ball. Upon returning home, he worked out an agreement to switch to the Marine reserves, meaning he could re-enter college while maintaining his military commitment until 2008.

Davis garnered interest from Anderson and Pfeiffer College, but picked Lander.

Evans also played at Hillcrest, and was a Furman teammate of

Hal Henderson, one of Davis' AAU coaches.

Evans had watched Davis in high school and thought he was getting a polished, tough guard. But during a tryout, Davis was far from the smooth, slick-shooting player he was before. Despite the poor tryout, Evans told Davis he could come to Lander if he paid his own way.

As the team began practicing, Davis' game started to improve. His shooting touch has slowly come around, and his decision-making has improved. Evans also said Davis has shown leadership skills and heart gained in the Marines.

"You can see things are coming," Evans said.

Davis has to drill several week-end a year with the Marines, often going right from basketball practice.

Davis' biggest basketball moment so far came Jan. 22 against Armstrong Atlantic when he hit a jumper with time running out in Lander's 57-56 victory. "It was like a flash," Davis said. "It took forever for the ball to go in."

Davis bristles when asked if he's a hero. He says he's only a Marine — like so many others who served the United States.

"It was my choice to do it," he said. "It's what I was supposed to do."



After a tour in Iraq with the Marines, Jason Davis is back doing what he enjoys most: playing basketball. He's a guard at South Carolina's Lander University.

Baylor's Drew finds a gem Down Under

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS

The Associated Press

WACO, Texas — Aaron Bruce grew up in Australia watching highlights of Michael Jordan and trying to emulate the ballhandling skills of Pete Maravich.

Instead of following in the footsteps of his two uncles who played Australian Rules Football, the national game he played until his freshman year in high school, Bruce's dream is the NBA.

"The further I got in basketball as a junior, I realized my future was to eventually get over to the States," Bruce said.

Bruce took that step by going to Baylor after playing for Australia's national junior team. The guard is now one of the top freshmen in the country, and a centerpiece for second-year coach Scott Drew's continued rebuilding of the program.

Through the first 18 games, Bruce averaged 16.7 points, second among Division I freshmen behind Auburn's Tony Douglas (17.7 ppg). Bruce is also the top Big 12 freshman in field-goal percentage (.48.8 percent), three-point shooting (41.3 percent) and free throw accuracy (86.8 percent).

Drew first saw Bruce while watching tape of Australia's 2003 victory over the United States in the junior world championships. Bruce scored 25 points against Illinois standout De Brown in the Aussies' upset victory.

Proven teams such as UCLA and Arizona also recruited Bruce. But he was drawn to Drew and

"Being able to say you were a part of rebuilding and getting that program to the likes of a UCLA, an Arizona, a Duke, Kentucky, Kansas — that's definitely our goal here."

Aaron Bruce

Baylor guard

Baylor, even as the team was being investigated by the NCAA for a scandal under previous coach Drew Bliss that was exposed after the death of a player.

"It's easy to go to a great team and just be a so-so player and go along for the ride with the program," Bruce said. "Being able to say you were a part of rebuilding and getting that program to the likes of a UCLA, an Arizona, a Duke, Kentucky, Kansas — that's definitely our goal here."

Bruce has started every game, scoring in double figures 12 times.

With Baylor (9-9, 1-6 Big 12) still struggles because of inexperience and lack of quality depth, Bruce continues to excel.

Opposing coaches have taken notice.

"He plays like a senior or older. ... He's crafty and he's got a great feel for the game," Texas coach Rick Barnes said.

"Aaron Bruce could play for anybody," Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson said. "They've got the great player at the one position you must have one to be a good team."

That is something very apparent to Drew, who was realistic with Bruce about the struggles the team was expected to face.

Bruce has already proven to be one of the hardest workers on the team, still taking 200 to 300 shots a day before or after practice.

He has become an example to even his older teammates.

"He works so extremely hard on the court to get himself better, and off the court players just love him," Drew said. "He's a guy that puts the team first and his actions back up his words."

International play gave Bruce the chance to go against some of the best players in the world. The high-speed court in Australian Rules Football helped with the physical aspect of basketball.

So the adjustment to Baylor and the Big 12 hasn't been too tough. The faster-paced, higher-scoring American game suits his style, and he hasn't been overwhelmed by expectations to score a lot and be a team leader.

"I haven't really felt that," he said. "I've had a lot of fun. I welcome challenges like that, and I've had a great time doing it."

Luckily for Baylor, he's just getting started.



Baylor's Aaron Bruce, who grew up in Australia watching highlights of Michael Jordan and trying to emulate the ball-handling skills of Pete Maravich, is one of the top freshmen in college basketball.

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NBA scorecard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|--------------|----|----|------|-------|
| Boston | 22 | 24 | .478 | |
| Philadelphia | 19 | 27 | .413 | 3 |
| New Jersey | 19 | 27 | .413 | 3 |
| Toronto | 19 | 27 | .413 | 3 |
| New York | 18 | 27 | .400 | 3 1/2 |

Southeast Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|------------|----|----|------|-------|
| Washington | 26 | 18 | .591 | 6 |
| Orlando | 25 | 20 | .558 | 7 1/2 |
| Charlotte | 21 | 24 | .468 | |
| Atlanta | 18 | 27 | .400 | 3 1/2 |

Central Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-----------|----|----|------|--------|
| Detroit | 26 | 18 | .591 | 6 |
| Cleveland | 25 | 19 | .570 | 1 1/2 |
| Chicago | 21 | 24 | .468 | |
| Indiana | 20 | 24 | .455 | |
| Milwaukee | 17 | 27 | .372 | 10 1/2 |

Western Conference

Southwest Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-------------|----|----|------|--------|
| San Antonio | 30 | 10 | .750 | |
| Houston | 30 | 10 | .750 | |
| Dallas | 26 | 14 | .652 | 6 |
| Phoenix | 27 | 13 | .675 | 11 |
| New Orleans | 26 | 13 | .553 | 11 1/2 |
| | 8 | 17 | .285 | |

Northwest Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-----------|----|----|------|----|
| Seattle | 21 | 13 | .705 | |
| Minnesota | 24 | 22 | .522 | 8 |
| Denver | 20 | 18 | .485 | 13 |
| Portland | 18 | 20 | .471 | 15 |
| Utah | 15 | 23 | .396 | 17 |

Pacific Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|--------------|----|----|------|--------|
| Phoenix | 21 | 13 | .705 | |
| Sacramento | 21 | 14 | .603 | 4 1/2 |
| LA Lakers | 20 | 15 | .568 | 11 |
| LA Clippers | 20 | 15 | .568 | 11 |
| Golden State | 19 | 16 | .547 | 12 1/2 |

Thursday's games

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-------------------------------|---|---|-----|----|
| Miami 10, Cleveland 9 | | | | |
| LA Clippers 106, Memphis 103 | | | | |
| San Antonio 101, LA Lakers 91 | | | | |

Friday's games

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-----------------------------|---|---|-----|----|
| Dallas at Philadelphia | | | | |
| Atlanta at Philadelphia | | | | |
| Washington at Toronto | | | | |
| Orlando at Boston | | | | |
| LA Clippers at Milwaukee | | | | |
| Houston at Minnesota | | | | |
| New York at Sacramento | | | | |
| Charlotte at Portland | | | | |
| San Antonio at Golden State | | | | |

Saturday's games

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-----------------------------|---|---|-----|----|
| Orlando at Philadelphia | | | | |
| Atlanta at Philadelphia | | | | |
| Washington at Toronto | | | | |
| Orlando at Boston | | | | |
| LA Clippers at Milwaukee | | | | |
| Houston at Minnesota | | | | |
| New York at Sacramento | | | | |
| Charlotte at Portland | | | | |
| San Antonio at Golden State | | | | |

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Duncan injures knee, but returns for Spurs' victory

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Tim Duncan was on the floor, grabbing his left knee with both hands and writing in obvious pain.

The San Antonio Spurs could only watch helplessly and hope for the best.

Fortunately, it appears that's what they got.

Duncan sat out the last 15 1/2 minutes after hyperextending his left knee during the Spurs' 103-91 victory over the Lakers.

Angels Lakers on Thursday night, but doesn't think he'll miss any more playing time.

"It feels pretty good," Duncan said afterward. "It'll be all right."

That's a relief for his coaches and teammates.

"When it's your best player, that makes you think a whole lot of things," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

"Very scary, very scary," San Antonio's Tony Parker said. "He's our star. That's the main guy for us."

The Spurs don't play again until Tuesday night, giving Duncan time to rest and recuperate.

The game was the first for the Lakers since Rudy Tomjanovich resigned as coach, citing health concerns. Frank Hamblen, Tomjanovich's replacement, lobbied for the return of Phil Jackson earlier in the day.

Duncan had 22 points and nine assists, and Malik Rose came off the bench for season-high totals of 19 points and 11 rebounds for the Spurs, who blew most of a 28-point lead in the fourth quarter with Duncan on the bench before going on a 10-5 run to finish the game.

Duncan was injured with 8:40 left before halftime in a collision with Caron Butler. Duncan sat out the rest of the second quarter, but started the second half and had nine points and five rebounds in the third quarter before coming out for good with 3:39 to play in the period.

"Once I took him out of the game and we had the lead, I just didn't think it would be very smart to put him back in," Popovich said. "He wanted to go in, he was begging me. I just thought he was too stiff."

"One time is not more important than his health."

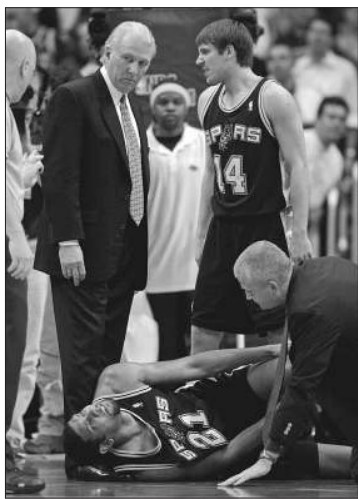
Duncan finished with 17 points in 19 minutes.

The Spurs outscored Los Angeles 37-15 in the third quarter for an 80-55 lead, but led 89-61 after the final period when the Lakers went on a 23-2 run to draw within seven points with 3:51 remaining.

But that was as close as they would get.

"It just shows what we're capable of and how we can play if we get after it a little bit," said Lamar Odom, who led the Lakers with 23 points and 15 rebounds.

Chris Mihaili added 17 points and nine assists for the Spurs (38-10), who have won four



San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan holds his knee as coach Gregg Popovich, left, and trainer Will Sevensing, right, look on Thursday. Duncan sat out most of the second quarter after hyperextending his left knee.

straight and eight of nine.

"Their lead got too big," Odom said. "The San Antonio Spurs don't lose a game when they're up by 25."

Chucky Atkins added 18 points and Butler scored 14 for the Lakers (24-20), who missed another opportunity for a season-high three-game winning streak. They've won consecutive games 10 times, but failed in each of those situations to win a third straight.

Hamblen, a 57-year-old career assistant, has five championship rings, all earned as an assistant under Jackson with the Lakers and Chicago Bulls.

"I just feel like I'm keeping the seat warm," Hamblen said before the game.

When asked who he re-plied, "I have no idea."

Then, Hamblen said: "I'd love for Phil to come back any day, to be honest with you."

Tomjanovich succeeded Jackson last summer, signing a seven-year, \$30 million contract. Jackson had an identical deal that expired after last season, and he wasn't asked to return.

Jackson coached the Lakers to championships in his first three years on the job and guided them to the NBA Finals last June, where they lost to the Detroit Pistons in five games.

Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak has acknowledged that

Jackson's name would come up in discussions. But Kupchak didn't rule out the possibility that Hamblen would coach the rest of the season, or beyond.

"The Lakers are 5-5 without Kobe Bryant, who hasn't played since spraining his right ankle Jan. 13. Bryant hopes to play at some point during his team's five-game road trip, which begins Sunday at Houston."

Heat 100, Cavaliers 88: Shaquille O'Neal had 26 points and 12 rebounds, and the Heat overcame 31 points and 10 assists from LeBron James, voted an All-Star starter earlier in the day, to beat the visiting Cavaliers.

Eddie Jones added 22 points and Dwyane Wade scored 20 for the Heat, who improved to 12-2 following a loss.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 23 points, and Drew Gooden had 20 points and 12 rebounds for the Cavaliers.

Clippers 106, Grizzlies 103: Bobby Simmons scored seven of his 26 points in the final three minutes, and Marko Jaric added 25 points as the visiting Clippers won their third straight and snapped a seven-game losing streak to the Grizzlies.

Brian Cardinal missed a desperation shot from beyond midcourt at the buzzer, sending the Grizzlies to only their second loss in seven games. Mike Miller led Memphis with 16 points.

James voted 2nd largest All-Star starter

BY TIM REYNOLDS

The Associated Press

MIAMI — LeBron James has already had his share of accomplishments in his young NBA career.

He's the reigning rookie of the year, often gets mentioned as an MVP candidate, has more fame and fortune than he'll ever need and has transformed the Cleveland Cavaliers into a playoff contender.

James ranked Thursday's wins among his career highlights. The kid is now an All-Star.

The 20-year-old James will be the second-youngest starter in All-Star Game history, after collecting more votes than any other Eastern Conference guard in fan balloting. Only Kobe Bryant, who was 19 when he made his All-Star debut in 1998, made an earlier appearance in the NBA's midseason showcase event.

"It means a lot, man. It means a lot because it's a part of the fans," said James, the only NBA player averaging at least 25 points, seven rebounds and seven assists this season. "The fans do all the voting. To know I got that today, you know, it's a light in my heart and one of the best things that's happened to me."

The other nine starters for the Feb. 20 game in Denver are all All-Star returnees.

Yao Ming of the Houston Rockets received a record 2,558,278 votes in winning the starting spot at center for the Western Conference for the third straight year. He

will line up alongside Minnesota's Kevin Garnett, Tim Duncan of San Antonio, the Lakers' Bryant and Houston's Tracy McGrady.

Miami center Shaquille O'Neal's 2,488,089 votes topped the East balloting and easily earned him his 12th All-Star trip. He'll be joined by James, Philadelphia's Allen Iverson, New Jersey's Vince Carter and Orlando's Grant Hill — who edged Indiana's Jermaine O'Neal by just 65,051 votes for the final forward spot.

Yao and Shaq both eclipsed the previous record vote total, 2,451,136 ballots were cast for Chicago's Michael Jordan in 1997.

"Thank you to the fans," Shaquille O'Neal said. "I've been fortunate enough to go every year that I've been in the NBA, and I want to thank them. I appreciate it."

Jermaine O'Neal, a starter for the East last year, missed 15 games earlier this season after being suspended for his part in a brawl with Detroit fans at a Nov. 19 Pacers-Pistons game. He is averaging 26.2 points and 9.5 rebounds, while Hill is averaging 18.9 points, 4.5 rebounds and 3.6 assists.

Yet Hill, sidelined for most of the past three seasons after undergoing four surgical procedures on his troublesome left ankle, was selected an All-Star nonetheless for the first time since 2001.

"It's amazing. I haven't expected any of this. I was just trying to concentrate on coming in and being healthy and not inju-

ing myself or looking at any personal goals," Hill said.

"I've been a little shocked at all this, all the love and attention — and I'm thankful for it."

All-Star reserves, selected by the league's coaches, will be announced next Tuesday.

Each coach must vote for seven players — two guards, two forwards, one center and two others — from the other teams in his conference.

Stan Van Gundy of the Miami Heat will coach the East team, while the West will be led by the coach of the team with the conference's best record following Sunday's games. San Antonio's Gregg Popovich and Phoenix's Mike D'Antoni are the leading candidates, with the Spurs 38-10 and the Suns 37-11 after Thursday's games.

James will truly be the new kid on the block; the other nine All-Star starters have a combined 61 All-Star appearances. But Van Gundy insists that James has earned a place among the NBA's biggest names.

"He's already established himself as one of the absolute best players in this league," Van Gundy said. "He can do a lot of things, and hurt you in a lot of ways, virtually every way possible."

He can drive the ball, he can shoot the ball, he's a great, great passer, he can post, he can rebound."

Shaquille O'Neal, whose Heat beat James' Cavaliers by 12 points on Thursday night, said he's looking forward to having



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) will be the second-youngest starter in All-Star history after leading all Eastern Conference players in fan voting for the Feb. 20 game.

the phenom as a teammate for the first time.

"We're going to go out there and have fun, a lot of jobs, and a lot of dunks," he said. "Hopefully we can get the win so we can get that \$50,000."

Tortured souled to Rudy T's departure

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — Yesterday's NBA head coaches had one assistant.

They obeyed the first-plane-out rule, squeezing their way onto commercial aircraft, often before dawn. They made a lot less money than they do today.

They had noisy, hot-running projectors, not tape machines. They practiced at whatever high school gym they could find.

They had one trainer, who often kept track of the timeouts and fouls.

They had no physiotherapist or strength coach. There was no off-season program. Sometimes there were three games in three nights.

Their practices were open, to reporters, drivers and stray dogs alike.

They never dreamed of the comforts from which Rudy Tomjanovich walked away, officially, Wednesday.

Our own plane? Our own practice coaches? Five assistant coaches? Red Auerbach might be coaching today.

Rudy T is not. The job was more, and less, than he had remembered. He left the Tomjanovich's assistants then and before last, and before that he left them so the doctors could treat bladder cancer. Here, he left the Lakers after 43 games. He explained to them as best he could, before practice, and then cried.

"We'd won four in a row when, in Houston," said Mike Wells, one of Tomjanovich's assistants then and now, "and I remember him standing in the locker room and telling the guys he had cancer, and I thought though I'd go through a day like that, but today was a lot like that."

"He's an emotional guy," back-

Mark Whicker



up center Brian Grant said, "and this was an emotional meeting."

They all tell you to leave everything behind at the office, when you go home, but Rudy couldn't do that.

Our lives are plagued by time-saving devices that do everything but.

The newspaper business has more expensive gadgetry than ever before, but deadlines — the time at which the news-gathering process has to stop — are also earlier than ever before.

In all businesses and homes, computers trap us at our desks, where we Google forever, lured by the promise of unprecedented access.

A coach, like nature itself, abhors a vacuum. Give him four tapes and he'll watch four. Give him 10 and he'll watch 10. Tomjanovich, as he recalled it Wednesday while he sat in the cobwebs of the Los Angeles Kings' locker room, stopped farming out his work to all those assistants. He could not escape his own diligence.

A Lakers victory would send him to a late-night restaurant for steak and French fries, and before the check arrived, he would brood over the next game.

A Lakers loss would leave him mortified and convinced that he had overlooked something.

A practice day at El Segundo would prompt him to stop — twice — for a jumbo coffee. "A

place in Brentwood and another one over here on Mariposa," he called it, "I had to have all that caffeine to get the energy."

As the season dried, Tomjanovich couldn't shake sinus infections, stomach bugs and a cloud of fatigue. One round of antibiotics didn't do it. Another, stronger regimen was prescribed, but when the doctor asked Tomjanovich if it was worth it — worth the risk of addiction, worth the psychological dependence — the coach couldn't answer immediately.

Somewhere in there, and somewhere in the afterglow of Friday night's loss to New Jersey, Tomjanovich realized it was OK to stop.

"Am I disappointed? Yes," he said. "Am I ashamed? No."

The good news, he said, is that he did not turn to old bottled friends to get him through. He piously raised a fist in tribute to his sobriety.

"I'm so lucky I had some people out here I could call," he said, "in case I ever thought about medicating myself with alcohol. I never did."

But that was a possibility, and Tomjanovich made a special reference to knowing that he and wife Sophie "have some work to do at home."

This is the family's first year outside Houston since 1971. Were Tomjanovich coaching the Rockets, he would be surrounded by friends and mentors such as Gene Shue, Tomjanovich's mentor. Moving to L.A. was new. So were nine of his Lakers. Everything intensified, especially when the Lakers missed 10 opportunities to win a championship.

Both Tomjanovich and General Manager Mitch Kupchak took a

mighty spin when asked about the Lakers' 24-19 record. Rudy T said he had "miraculous" and Kupchak pointed out that 24-19 is only two games behind second-place Detroit in the Eastern Conference.

Now the coach is Frank Hamblen, a respected clipboard-carrier and sounding board for 35 pro seasons. And not as an "interim" coach.

"I don't know what that word means anymore," Kupchak said. "Frank is the coach as we go forward."

If the Lakers respond, Hamblen will keep coaching. Why is it gospel that L.A. has to have a "big-name"? Clubs coached by names such as Popovich, D'Antoni, McMillan and The Other Van Gundy seem to be doing fine.

Kupchak had the office next to Tomjanovich's. He noticed things. "I have a grinning in my gut, too," he said, "but I have a real mess. Most people in this business find a way to get through the day. Rudy couldn't get through the day."

Why? Because Tomjanovich forgot how a can turn into night.

"It's like an old girlfriend," Wells said. "As time goes on you forget what you didn't like."

Or maybe Tomjanovich surrounded himself with all those imperial peers, heard the encouraging words of Dr. Jerry Buss and felt the responsibility to go 82-0 — at least.

His only promise Wednesday was he would never coach again, a promise that, perversely, gets easier to break, the better you

Mark Whicker is a columnist for the Orange County (Calif.) Register.

Judge wants deposition from Bryant

The Associated Press

DENVER — Before the month is out, NBA star Kobe Bryant will probably have to answer the first official questions about his assault case since talking with investigators the night after he was accused of rape in 2003.

U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch on Wednesday pushed attorneys for the Los Angeles Lakers' name and the 20-year-old woman to schedule Bryant's deposition before the end of February. He also said he hoped the woman's civil lawsuit against Bryant will go to trial this summer.

The woman sued Bryant in August, three weeks before the criminal case against him collapsed when she decided she could not take part in a trial. The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages for mental injuries, humiliation and public scorn that the former hotel worker said she has suffered since their encounter in June 2003 at a Vail-area resort.

Bryant, a married father of one, issued an apology but insisted the sex was consensual. The woman, who is pregnant, left the courthouse with her husband. Defense attorney L. Lin Wood declined to reveal the man's name or details of the marriage, except to say it happened last fall.

The judge also ordered the attorneys to stop including "immaterial, impertinent and scandalous" information in public filings.

German boxing great, Louis, died at 99

BY ROY KAMMERER
The Associated Press

BERLIN — Max Schmeling, the heavyweight champion whose two fights with Joe Louis set off a propaganda war between the Nazi regime and the United States on the eve of World War II, died at 99.

Schmeling, one of Germany's biggest sports figures, died Wednesday at his home in Hollenstedt, his foundation in Hamburg said.

The boxer was buried Friday next to his wife, Anny Ondra, in Hollenstedt at a ceremony attended by a small circle of friends, the foundation added. Pastor Olaf Koentz said it was Schmeling's wish to be buried privately.

"He was a star, but he didn't let fame get into his head," Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said.

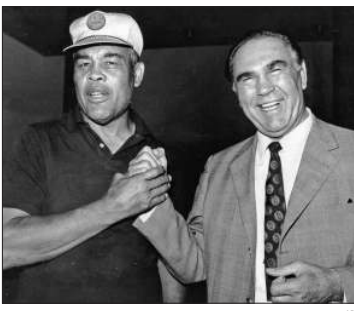
German President Horst Koehler, on a state visit to Israel, lauded Schmeling as a "classic example in sport" and for "his humanity."

Formula One champion Michael Schumacher called Schmeling "a man of firm principles."

Schmeling's extraordinary career will be remembered for his bouts with Louis, which produced a lasting bond between the boxers despite a politically charged atmosphere when they fought.

Born Sept. 28, 1905 of humble origins in a small town in the state of Brandenburg, Schmeling became interested in boxing after seeing a film about the sport.

He became the first German — and European — heavyweight



Max Schmeling, right, who died on Wednesday at 99, will be remembered for his fights with Joe Louis, left. Despite the politically charged atmosphere surrounding them, the bouts produced a lasting bond between the boxers, pictured here in Las Vegas in 1971.

world champion when he beat Jack Sharkey in New York on June 12, 1930 after the American was disqualified for a fourth-round low blow. He was the only German to be world heavyweight champion.

Schmeling lost his title to Sharkey two years later on a disputed decision, but came back to knock out the previously unbeaten Louis in the 12th round on June 19, 1936, which the Nazi regime trumpeted as a sign of "Aryan supremacy."

Schmeling was a 10-1 underdog and his victory is considered one of the biggest upsets in boxing history. But in a rematch at Yankee Stadium on June 22, 1938, Louis knocked out Schmeling in the first round.

At first, Schmeling was popular in the United States. But by the time the rematch took place, he was viewed as a symbol of the Nazis. The fight was portrayed in both countries as good vs. evil.

The Nazis sought to project

Schmeling as an Aryan Superman (the night of broken glass) in 1938, when the Nazis burned books in a central square and rampaged through the city, setting synagogues on fire.

He reportedly used his influence to save Jewish friends from concentration camps.

After the war, Schmeling was nearly destitute and fought five more times for the money. He retired after a 10-round loss to Walter Neusel in 1948 at 43 with a record of 56-10-4 with 39 knockouts.

Schmeling used the money from the bouts to buy the license to the Coca-Cola franchise in Germany and grew wealthy in the postwar era. He also marketed his name, retaining his huge popularity in Germany despite his problems with the Nazis.

Over the years, Schmeling treasured his friendship with Louis and quietly gave him the down-and-out American gifts of money. He also paid for Louis' funeral in 1981.

In his final years, Schmeling spent three or four hours a day watching television in his home in Hollenstedt. He remained married to Ondra for 54 years until the died in 1987. The two, who met on the set of a film in which Schmeling appeared, married in 1932. The couple had no children.

"I had a happy marriage and a nice wife," Schmeling said in 1985. "I accomplished everything you can. What more can you want?"

Associated Press writer Claus-Peter Tiemann in Hamburg contributed to this report.

Thrashers' Heatley gets probation for teammate's death

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Atlanta Thrashers star Dany Heatley was sentenced Friday to three years of probation and must give 150 speeches about the dangers of speeding after pleading guilty in the death of teammate Dan Snyder in a car accident.

Heatley pleaded guilty to four of the six charges he faced. In exchange, the only felony charge — first-degree vehicular homicide — was dropped along with a charge of reckless driving.

He pleaded guilty to second-degree vehicular homicide, driving too fast for conditions, failure to maintain a lane and speeding for the Sept. 29, 2003, car crash in Atlanta that killed his 25-year-old teammate.

"The mistake I made that night was speeding," Heatley said at the sentencing. "This mistake will stay with me the rest of my life."

Police estimated that Heatley, 26, was driving his 2001 white All-Star car, was driving his black Ferrari convertible on a curved road in a residential area when it ran into a brick pillar and iron fence.

Police estimated he was driving between 60 mph and 90 mph.

Authorities said Heatley had consumed some alcohol but was not intoxicated. A 33-year-old passenger, died after several days in a coma.

Sports briefs

If the case went to trial and Heatley was convicted on all counts, the hockey star would have faced up to 20 years in prison and fines totaling \$5,000. The plea deal also allowed Heatley, a Canadian citizen, to avoid any threat of deportation, and therefore should not affect his ability to play in the NHL. The players have been locked out since the season and the season is on the verge of cancellation.

NHL and players' association talk for nine hours

NEW YORK — There appears to be one more chance to save the hockey season, and the NHL and the players' association are talking it.

The sides met for nine hours Thursday, one day after the union rejected the league's latest salary-cap proposal, and made plans to get together again Friday.

Although a drop-dead date has never been announced, it appears that time has all but run out to make a deal.

The union invited Commissioner Gary Bettman and players' association executive director Bob Goodenow back to the table for Thursday's meeting, but the leaders sat out the previous five sessions during a two-week span.

The NHL declined comment on what was being discussed, or if any progress was being made.

The 4½-month lockout reached its 141st day on Thursday and has wiped out 772 regular-season games and the All-Star Game. The remainder of the 1,230-game schedule could be called off with in days if significant progress isn't made quickly.

Dillon added to Pro Bowl

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — New England Patriots running back Corey Dillon was selected for his fourth Pro Bowl on Friday, making him the second member of the AFC champions to be added to the roster as an injury replacement.

He replaces Indianapolis Colts running back Edgerrin James, who has a back injury.

Pro Bowl, Tom Brady, Larry Izzo, Richard Seymour and Adam Vannatter were originally selected to the team, and Teddy Bruschi was an injury replacement for Baltimore linebacker Ray Lewis.

Falcons RB Dunn chosen NFL Man of the Year

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Atlanta running back Warrick Dunn was honored Friday as the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year for his "Home For The Holiday" program, which helps single mothers become first-time homeowners.

Dunn rushed for 1,106 yards and nine touchdowns this season, helping the NFC South champion Falcons reach the NFC championship game, where they lost to the Philadelphia Eagles.

Huskie's former compliance director felt unfairly blamed

KENT, Wash. — Washington's former compliance director said Thursday she felt unfairly blamed by university administrators for an erroneous e-mail — one that led to Rick Neuheisel's lawsuit against the school and the NCAA.

Dana Richardson testified in the King County Superior Court trial of the fired football coach's lawsuit that she was devastated after learning from NCAA investigators that her March 13, 2003, memo could result in a major penalty against Washington.

The university and NCAA took the position that Richardson was wrong when she wrote in the 1999 and 2003 e-mails to Washington's athletic staff that gambling with a friend from in off-campus pools is acceptable.

The e-mail is a cornerstone of Neuheisel's case. The former Huskies coach, fired in June 2003, believes it gave him the ammunition to bet in an on-site NCAA basketball pools where he won \$18,253 in 2002 and 2003.

Appellate court reinstates lawsuit against Jordan

CHICAGO — An appellate court ruled Thursday that a woman who accused Michael Jordan of molesting a promisee to pay her \$5 million to keep quiet about an affair presented sufficient facts to pursue her case in court.

The ruling by the Illinois Court of Appeals said Karla Knafel's breach of contract lawsuit should be reopened after a promisee filed by Jordan accusing her of extortion. In 2003, Cook County Judge Richard A. Siebel threw out both lawsuits.

Jordan's lawyer, Frederick J. Sperling, said he would ask the Illinois Supreme Court to hear the case.

Hart takes lead in FBR Open

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Dudley Hart took a two-time PGA winner without a victory since 2000, took a one-stroke lead Thursday with a 4-under-par 67 in the first round of the FBR Open, a round that was suspended for 33 minutes because of the wind and took nearly six hours to finish.

The wind had subsided considerably when the opening round was completed Friday morning. Kevin Na and Heath Slocum finished the round to join Stewart Cink and Hunter Mahan at 3-under 68. Five others were at 2-under 69.

Pats' Bruschi: 'The end result is still hitting someone'

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. He did always loved contact.

Tedy Bruschi's introduction to football came with a handful of pals on a small, weather-beaten patch of grass in a tough part of San Francisco. Some Sunday, he will step onto the biggest and best manicured stage the game has to offer. But the thing Bruschi loved most about it has never changed.

"The end result is still hitting someone," he said as the Patriots and Eagles moved into the stretch run for the Super Bowl.

"But now I know there's a lot more to it."

How much more depends on how deep you want to dig. On one level, Bruschi is talking about learning his craft, about how a defensive lineman who relied on speed and power morphed into a linebacker who can decipher opposing offenses with unnerving accuracy and cause as much havoc with his intelligence as his aggression.

On another level, it was about learning how to control the anger

Jim Litke



Bruschi fought often and drank more than he should have. The 19-year never stretched beyond what was in front of him.

"I had a chip on my shoulder the size of a boulder," he told the Boston Globe last month. "I suppose it comes from growing up hard. I can't fully explain it. All I know is it seemed like I was angry a lot when I played football."

Bruschi didn't play organized football until he was 14, but he made up for the lost time in a hurry. He ran track, wrestled and lettered in football his last two years at Roseville High near Sacramento, Calif., but didn't think

about playing college ball until the recruiting letters began pouring in.

At Arizona, he became the leader of the Wildcats' "Desert Swarm" defense and wound up tying the NCAA Division I record for career sacks. But there, too, Bruschi never considered stepping up to the next level until everyone around him started speculating about his place in the NFL draft. It turns out the pro scouts hadn't thought much about his chances, either; Bruschi slipped to the Patriots' third round in the 1996 draft, the 86th pick overall.

"The first day in camp made me realize how much I had to learn," he recalled. "It was so much more challenging that it made me want to — actually, forced me to — learn the game all over again."

His development into one of the game's finest linebackers has been documented on highlight reels ever since. Bruschi served his apprenticeship as a part-time defender and special-teams marvel, getting in just enough ticks to keep him satisfied. All the while, he patiently mastered coach Bill

Belichick's intricate schemes, studying film endlessly and gaining the experience and confidence necessary to become more than a bit player.

With more responsibility came more and more plays. He ripped the ball away from running backs, separated it from receivers, stole perfectly good throws from quarterbacks and carried a few back to the end zone. That kind of versatility has become as crucial to the success of New England's punishing, opportunistic defense as the mad genius of a coach who draws it up.

"Intense, passionate, productive, smart, physical and now you can use the words 'Pro Bowler,' too, to describe Tedy," said Mike Vrabel, who plays alongside Bruschi, "which was long overdue as far as I'm concerned."

Philadelphia Eagles tight end L.J. Smith, whose job will carry him into Bruschi's territory more than once Sunday, wouldn't contest even one of those points.

"He's probably not the best athlete on the field," Smith said, "just the one who makes plays. You know coach Belichick

doesn't trust too many guys to step outside their roles, but the more you watch film, the more places he's likely to turn up."

At 31, Bruschi's life away from the field is a reflection of his maturity on it.

He quit drinking a half-dozen years ago, troubled by the fact that unlike when he played football, he was losing control at all the wrong moments. It was one quality he couldn't bear passing on to his three young sons.

"Everyone has troubles in their life," Bruschi said. "But there comes a time when you try to look at yourself and say it's time to grow up. It's a decision I just made. About five, six years ago. I decided I wanted to become the best father I could."

On game days, though, Bruschi has no problems reaching back for the memories of that kid who considered a scraped knee a badge of courage and found nothing more satisfying than lowering his shoulder and knocking a ball carrier into the next block.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist at the Boston Globe. Write to him at: jlitke@globe.com

Eagles WR Lewis looking to take on any role Sunday

BY MARK LONG

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Appearing in a supporting role: Philadelphia Eagles receiver Greg Lewis.

It's OK, he's used to it. He's done it every year since high school.

He'll probably do it again Sunday in the Super Bowl against New England.

Then again, without knowing how effective Terrell Owens will be in his return from a serious ankle injury, Lewis just might get his chance on the biggest stage in sports.

Lewis already has shown he is capable of big things. He has 10 receptions for a team-high 182 yards in the last three games, coming off the bench and giving the Eagles a deep threat everyone assumed they would miss without Owens.

"Having T.O. back obviously makes us a better team," Lewis said. "He's our biggest weapon and really helps us exploit defenses. But when he was out, it presented me with an opportunity that I tried to make the most of."

That he did.

Lewis caught six passes for 53 yards in the season finale against Cincinnati. He had a 52-yard reception that set up a touchdown against Minnesota in the playoffs and a 45-yard catch that led to a touchdown against Atlanta in the NFC title game.

"The one thing that Greg has brought to us, the one thing we saw when we signed him as a free agent, is the kid can flat-out run," receivers coach David Culley said.

Lewis nearly ran away from football all together.



Greg Lewis, above, has taken up some of the offensive burden for the Philadelphia Eagles since Terrell Owens went down with an ankle injury, catching 10 passes for 182 yards in the past three games.

Despite having a standout senior season at Rich South High in Matteson, Ill., in which he had 56 catches for 880 yards and 13 touchdowns, Lewis didn't get a single scholarship offer. The closest he got was a planned recruiting visit to Minnesota, but the Gophers later rescinded the invitation.

"I had low self-esteem after that," he got worse.

He went to Illinois as a

non-scholarship player, quickly grew frustrated with his spot on the depth chart and quit.

"I was a little immature about it," Lewis conceded. "I wasn't just going to be out there for my health, just running around for no reason. I don't run for fun."

Lewis had no plans to play anywhere else. He just wasn't going to play. He had already decided to finish school, become a math teacher and coach high school football.

But his Illinois teammate and cousin, current Pittsburgh Steelers receiver Walter Young, kept telling him about practice.

After several conversations, Lewis decided to give football another shot.

Good thing, too.

Lewis finished his college career ranked 10th on the school's all-time receptions list and eighth in receiving yards — playing four years as a reserve.

Even though he got his name in

the record books, the 6-foot, 180-pound undersized wideout was overlooked by NFL scouts.

He went undrafted, but the Eagles signed him to a free-agent contract.

"All I wanted was an opportunity to get in someone's training camp," he said. "I felt like once I got there, I could take advantage of the situation. I was going to get my foot in the door, and they weren't going to close it on me."

In fact, he sort of busted it open.

Lewis was so impressive — as a reserve receiver and on special teams — that the Eagles gave him a five-year extension in November.

"From the first minute he came into camp, he showed great hands," offensive coordinator Brad Childress said. "He did a great job catching the football, has great speed, very good quickness at the line of scrimmage and a little bit of wiggle."

"Those are some good things to have. The other thing is he is a smart guy."

The thing he lacks is size.

"He's not a very big guy, but his body is like a rubber band," Culley said. "I've seen him take hits in practice that would have broken other people up. That guy just gets up and comes back to the huddle, and he plays with no fear. When you can run and you've got athletic ability and you've got good hands like that, there's usually a place for you and a role for you on our football team."

On Sunday, it might just be a prominent one, too.

"You don't come into the NFL thinking you're going to be a backup or your whole career," Lewis said. "Right now, I have to be in front of me who are capable of getting the job done. I just want to be ready if they need me."

No guarantee Owens will start

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Philadelphia Eagles receiver Terrell Owens might not start in the Super Bowl, coach Andy Reid said Friday in his final news conference before the title game against the New England Patriots.

"We've got it broken down into certain plays we'd like to see him in there," Reid said. "If one of those happens to be the first play," Owens will start.

Owens has two screws and a plate in his right leg from a severely sprained ankle and a fractured fibula in a Dec. 19 victory over Dallas.

After missing the last two games of the regular season and playoff victories over Minnesota and Atlanta, Owens proclaimed himself ready to play in the Super Bowl.

In his first season with the Eagles after eight years in San Fran-



Terrell Owens

cisco, Owens led Philadelphia with 77 catches for 1,200 yards and 14 TDs and made the Pro Bowl.

Patriots coach Bill Belichick said he expects Owens to play — and play his best.

"We've seen plenty of him.

He's a good player," Belichick said. "We know what he's capable of doing."

Also Friday, Belichick said the team would fill his remaining spot by promoting offensive lineman Billy Yates to the 53-man roster. The team previously had only two tackles on the roster.

Path from wrestling to football leads Neal to Super Bowl

By JIMMY GOLEN

The Associated Press

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — In the back of Stephen Neal's mind, this is a temp job.

The two-time NCAA wrestling champion will start at right guard for the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl on Sunday, just four years after taking up football as one of the greenest rookies imaginable.

A victory would give him three NFL championship rings in the career he fell back on when his attempt at an Olympic medal was derailed.

"I've always wanted to be in the Olympics. Maybe later in my career. I'll take another shot," said Neal, who missed making the 2000 Games by one spot when he finished second in the U.S. wrestling trials.

"It's wrestling, you represent your country," he said. "You're wearing the flag on your singlet. Nothing could replace that."

"Wrestling is the ultimate one-on-one battle. You're out there by yourself. In football, there's a bunch of those battles."

Neal, 26, played football in high school, but wasn't recruited by college teams and he wrestled at California-Bakersfield instead.

He finished third in the Nationals in 1996 and won his first NCAA title in 1998. In '99, he won a second NCAA title to go with a world championship and the international wrestler of the year award.

The United States has produced only two super-heavyweight world champions: Neal and Bruce Baumgartner.

But Neal finished second in the 286-pound weight class in the Olympic trials, missing the only spot on the U.S. team going to Sydney. After losing again — to the same wrestler, Kerry McCoy — for a chance to go to the 2001 world championships, Neal decided to try football.

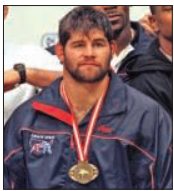
"I was a regular guy, watching TV, every Monday," Neal said. "That's all I knew about football."

Neal got in touch with an agent who arranged a tryout with the Patriots. He showed up for his tryout with wrestling shoes and had to borrow spikes and some other equipment from linebacker Mike Vrabel.

"When I tell you he didn't know where the field was, he didn't know where the field was," New England coach Bill Belichick said.

"He didn't know how to put his pads on; he didn't know where to line up; he didn't even know where the hell the field was."

"When I say starting from scratch, we're starting from below scratch. But Steve works hard. Nobody put in more time or effort into it. He took it very seriously as a job and an opportunity. He got a lot better. That being said, he still couldn't play football. But he was still a good athlete who was making some progress."



AP

Stephen Neal has won a world championship in wrestling, and has a chance to win his third Super Bowl ring on Sunday.

It's not unusual for athletes to cross over into other sports, and there is an obvious overlap in skills between wrestling and the offensive line. Neal's "freight-train" double leg technique is said to be similar to a football tackle. But few other wrestlers have made the switch without so little football experience — most notably former Pittsburgh lineman Carlton Haselrig, who wrestled in college and won three NCAA titles before making three Pro Bowl with the Steelers.

Philadelphia Eagles guard Steve Scullio said it's clear why some wrestling skills would come in handy as a lineman: balance, footwork, leverage and strong hands.

"Those are skills every athlete has," Philadelphia defensive end Jamal Green said. "They just use it in different ways."

The Patriots tried Neal on defense — "that was stupid," Belichick said — and released him at the end of training camp in 2001. Neal caught on with the Eagles' practice squad and then went back to the Patriots late in the season, although he was never activated, he earned his first Super Bowl ring.

Neal made the field in 2002 but got hurt and missed the entire 2003 season, when he earned his second championship ring. But he made enough progress in his technique and his knowledge of the terminology and schemes to compete for playing time in training camp. After the second game, he became the full-time starter.

"He was light years ahead of where he was in '01," Belichick said. "He just doesn't have the kind of playing experience of ... guys who have been playing football now for the past dozen years. He is just not in that category yet. He has made tremendous improvement."

"It is a wonderful story about a guy that, with hard work, dedication, overcoming the setbacks of the injuries and the lack of playing experience, has turned into, really, a good football player and has developed a second career for himself."



Former Arizona Cardinals and Dallas Cowboys running back Emmitt Smith, left, pauses during a news conference on Thursday in Jacksonville, Fla., to announce his retirement.

Emmitt Smith's rush to the top

| Year, Team | Regular Season | | | | Receiving | | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| | No. | Yds. | Avg | TD | No. | Yds. | Avg | TD |
| 1990, Dallas | 35 | 113 | 3.2 | 21 | 49 | 258 | 5.3 | 1 |
| 1991, Dallas | 39 | 156 | 4.0 | 12 | 49 | 258 | 5.3 | 1 |
| 1992, Dallas | 37 | 113 | 4.6 | 16 | 39 | 235 | 5.7 | 1 |
| 1993, Dallas | 263 | 1,486 | 5.3 | 9 | 57 | 414 | 7.1 | 1 |
| 1994, Dallas | 368 | 1,484 | 4.0 | 21 | 50 | 341 | 6.8 | 1 |
| 1995, Dallas | 377 | 1,773 | 4.7 | 12 | 62 | 375 | 6.1 | 1 |
| 1996, Dallas | 327 | 1,204 | 3.7 | 12 | 47 | 249 | 5.3 | 1 |
| 1997, Dallas | 261 | 1,074 | 4.1 | 4 | 40 | 234 | 5.9 | 0 |
| 1998, Dallas | 319 | 1,322 | 4.2 | 13 | 27 | 175 | 6.5 | 1 |
| 1999, Dallas | 229 | 1,087 | 4.7 | 11 | 27 | 139 | 5.1 | 0 |
| 2000, Dallas | 294 | 1,203 | 4.1 | 9 | 11 | 79 | 7.2 | 0 |
| 2001, Dallas | 50 | 256 | 5.1 | 2 | 10 | 103 | 10.3 | 0 |
| 2002, Dallas | 254 | 975 | 3.8 | 5 | 16 | 89 | 5.6 | 0 |
| 2003, Arizona | 50 | 256 | 5.1 | 2 | 14 | 14.0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004, Arizona | 207 | 937 | 3.5 | 9 | 15 | 105 | 7.0 | 0 |
| Totals | 4,609 | 19,421 | 4.1 | 154 | 514 | 324 | 6.3 | 19 |

| Year, Team | Regular Season | | | | Receiving | | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|----------|
| | No. | Yds. | Avg | TD | No. | Yds. | Avg | TD |
| 1991, Dallas | 41 | 185 | 4.5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2.0 | 0 |
| 1992, Dallas | 71 | 412 | 5.8 | 1 | 13 | 96 | 6.6 | 1 |
| 1993, Dallas | 66 | 280 | 4.2 | 3 | 13 | 138 | 10.6 | 1 |
| 1994, Dallas | 71 | 311 | 4.4 | 2 | 6 | 52 | 8.7 | 0 |
| 1995, Dallas | 39 | 136 | 3.5 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 5.0 | 0 |
| 1996, Dallas | 16 | 74 | 4.6 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 10.0 | 0 |
| 1999, Dallas | 5 | 25 | 5.0 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 14.0 | 0 |
| Totals | 322 | 1,468 | 4.6 | 16 | 42 | 334 | 8.0 | 2 |

Style: Smith's great run comes to end

STYLE, FROM BACK PAGE

The biggest criticism on Smith's career is how easy he supposedly had it, that if someone else had his blockers and was supported by a passing game featuring Troy Aikman and Michael Irvin, they would've done just as well, if not better.

The reality, though, is that no one else had that chance. Smith did, and he made the most of it. On Thursday, he described it as fulfilling his destiny.

"I'm glad I was able to recognize my talent and my opportunities and capitalize on them," he said.

Smith was a complete player, too — a solid receiver and a back of a blocker, flipping over more than one blitzing defender. He also was driven. He recalled Thursday the oft-told story of him sitting down as a rookie and writing down his career goals, which included passing Walter Payton to become the leading rusher in league history.

He expects someone to eventually catch him. But he also knows it won't be easy.

"It takes grace, it takes desire,

it takes determination, a lot of ability and a short-term memory," Smith said. "You have to forget what you did before and prepare every year like it's your first year, making that sacrifice and commitment."

All his best traits came together on Jan. 2, 1994. Though not the best game of his career, it's certainly the most memorable. Despite separating his right shoulder, Smith ran 32 times and caught 10 passes for 229 yards and a touchdown, leading Dallas to a 16-13 overtime victory over the New York Giants in the season finale.

The victory propelled the Cowboys to a second straight Super Bowl title and cemented his status among the game's elite players.

Then again, defying the odds was an underlying theme throughout Smith's career. He liked people to say he couldn't do something, and then he'd go prove he could.

One of the greatest high school players in U.S. history, Smith showed he could keep it up in college by rushing for more than 1,000 yards in just seven games; nobody has ever done it quicker.

After his junior year, Steve Spurrier took over at Florida and was so eager to unleash his passing offense that he made it clear he wouldn't mind if Smith went pro, so he did.

Sixteen players were drafted before Dallas took Smith, including another running back: Blair Thomas. Of those 16, only Junior Seau and possibly Cortez Kennedy will even come close to the Hall of Fame, while Smith already can book a hotel room in Canton, Ohio, in August 2010.

Smith could've called it a career two years ago, when Dallas was ready to move on without him, but he felt he still had some yards left, maybe enough to crack 20,000.

His quest failed in more ways than the obvious. He damaged his reputation with some of the things he did and said, but Thursday's thank-you-filled press was all about making amends.

In a few weeks, he'll sign a one-day contract with Dallas so his retirement will be officially listed as happening for the Cowboys — he was making some progress."

Regardless, his place in football history already is secure.

SPORTS

Thrashers' Heatley gets
three years' probation
for teammate's death, Page 29



Signing off in style

Smith made a splash
in every stage of
his storied career

BY JAIME ARON
The Associated Press

DALLAS — Even in the way he retired, Emmitt Smith showed a knack for reading blocks and picking the right hole.

He said goodbye Thursday at the site of the Super Bowl, surrounded by football's biggest stars and swarms of media. Better yet, it happened to be in his home state of Florida, where he broke out the scene as a high school sensation then became a college star.

And, best of all, he went out on his own terms.

Although he didn't crack 20,000 career rushing yards as he hoped, Smith knew he wouldn't get the chance, at least not from the only two teams he'd consider. So it didn't make much sense to stick around.

"I'm happy," Smith said during a tearful, hourlong news conference. "I've given everything I could possibly give to the game."

Closing the book on Smith's record-shattering career revives the debate about where he ranks among the NFL's greatest running backs.

With Smith, though, the point isn't whether he belongs ahead of, behind or between the likes of Jim Brown, Walter Payton and Barry Sanders. What matters is that Smith belongs in the conversation.

Told he was too small and too slow to make it at the next level pretty much from the time he began playing football, Smith lacked blazing speed, jaw-dropping moves or a battering running style. His trademark was more tangible — accomplishments, as in four rushing titles, three Super Bowl championships and MVP awards for the regular season and the Super Bowl.

Then there are the records: most carries (4,409), yards (18,355), rushing touchdowns (164) and 100-yard games (78).

Smith also has the most 1,000-yard seasons with 11, and went over 1,400 yards five years in a row — another unprecedented feat.

In some sports, those marks would be knocked as byproducts of longevity. It's quite the opposite in football, where durability is the ultimate compliment, especially for a running back.

"Look at me, I'm only 5-9, 215 pounds," Smith said Thursday, for once basking in his stature. "People see guys like Charles Haley and other big guys and ask me, 'How in the world do you do it?' Sometimes I look at myself and say, 'How in the world do I do it?' I take a lot of pride in going out and doing it."

SEE STYLE ON PAGE 31

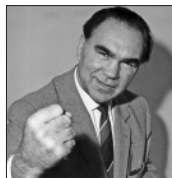
Cavaliers'
James voted
second-youngest
starter in
history of
NBA All-Star Game

Page 28



Men's Top 25:
Freshman Williams
scores 20
in Tar Heels'
victory over
Wolfpack

Page 25



German boxing
great Schmeling,
heavyweight
champ who fought
Joe Louis,
dies at 99

Page 29

Kostelic defends women's combined title in skiing worlds Page 25



Former Dallas Cowboys and Arizona Cardinals RB Emmitt Smith, the NFL's career leading rusher, retired on Thursday.

AP